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Rifkind sees serious peace efforts

BEIRUT (AP) - Britain's foreign secretary said Saturday the assessination of Yitzhak Rabin would spur efforts to get the stalled Middle East peace process off the ground. Malcolm Rifkind also said there can be no total peace in the Middle East unless Lebanon enjoys peace. "I believe that the tragic death of Mr. Rahm would not have ended the peace process. Far from it, there may be scrious new elforts to take the peace process further forward." Mr. Rifkind told a news conference after a one-hour meeting with his Lebanese counterpart. Fans Bouez. Efforts will be made to stablish peace between Israel and both Syria and Lebanon, he said, without elaborating. However, Mr. Rifkind acknowledged that the U.S.-sponsored peace process has encountered difficul-ties. "Peace will not be easy because there have been many rears of distrust, misapprehensions and mutual hatred which have to be overcome," he said, "But I sense that there is a determination from people of goodwill throughout the region to make a new effort and to make further progress in this respect," he added.



Algerians cast absentee votes

PARIS (AFP) - French police intervened and several people were taken to hospital, amid scenes of confusion and hysteria as thousands of Algerians living in France cast absentee ballots Saturday in their country's presidential elections. In Lyon, central eastern France, where some 55,000 voters are registered, several thousand Algerians from five nearby departments crowded together as soon as polling stations opened, and about 40 people tell ill. Some 24 people were sent to hospital and about 30 were treated on the spot, rescue services said. Police set up barriers and handed out sugar and mineral water to the crowd. In Rouen. northwest France, police tried to organise unruly masses of voters. and officials called for calm, as Algerians tore up their polling cards in protest at the lack of organisation. Scenes of disarray also took place in the southern cities of Nice, Marseille and Bordeaux and a woman in her 46s was taken ill. Around 620,000 registered Algerian electors were due to cast their ballots over three days Saturdy, Sunday and Thursday - at 94 polling stations set up at 22 centres, mainly consulates, around France.

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AMMAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1995, JUMADA THANI 19, 1416

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Senate rallies behind King's directives

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received a cable from Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi voicing the Senate's support of the King and his stands expressed in his speech delivered Thursday before senior army, intelligence, civil de-fence and public security

Mr. Lawzi said the Senate, along with the Lower House of Parliament, was prepared to update legislation to meet the needs of the new stage. and preserve the national principles enshrined in the Constitution

He said the Senate would work on ending excesses and irresponsible behaviour which harm our national unity, national norms and

In his address Thursday. King Hussein expressed an-ger over the tactics adopted the country's hardliners who oppose the peace agreement with Israel and those who rejoiced at the assassinution of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin,

The King also strongly reiterated his yow that anyone "who seeks to destroy national unity" would be his

The King assailed the local media for not living up to the challenges of the day and said journalists critical of the peace process were demoralising people, propagating de-featism and sowing dissension and calling for updating laws to cater for the needs of

the present stage. On Friday, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said his government would adopt measures necessary to protect Jordan's national unity. The Lower House also issued a statement supporting the King and expressing readiness to update legislation in a manner that would protect the country's national unity

and democratisation process. Mr. Lawzi said in his cable that the Senate would safeguard all the King's achievements and stop excesses on the Kingdom's democracy.

Since its establishment. Jordan was an Arah and Hashemite fortress embodying the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, which raised the banners of Ireedom, unity and independence for all Arabs," the Senate

The Kingdom was honoured to raise the banner of the Great Arab Revolt and to inherit its principles, Mr.

Lawzi added. The Kingdom refuses to have "the elements of evil and darkness in its sanctity" working to undermine its security, the unity of its peo-

Jordan celebrates King's 60th birthday

Tens of thousands march through Amman, launching national festivities

HM thanks the nation, pledges continued partnership for better future

AMMAN (J.T.) - His Majesty King Hussein has expressed his pride in belong-ing to Jordan and his appreciation and gravtude to the Jordanian people for expressing their feelings of affection and loyalty to him on his 60th

The King was speaking at Basman Palace where he received the higher committee in charge of organising celebrations marking King Hussein's 60th birthday, including a public march held in Ammon on Saturday.

"I would like to thank Sharif Zeid, my life long companion in our efforts towards serving Jordan and the Arab Nation, for his kind words and true and beautiful feelings," said King Hussein in reply to a speech by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben

"I seize this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to the Jordanian family... its men, women, young and old who were my companions in the long march and never-ending struggle in life for achieving what is good for the future of all people the bow only to the God Almighty and who set examples for others by national unity and sacrifices, democracy, pluralism and respect

for human rights." King Hussein said. which was honoured to 1 pray tn God to guide Jordan and help it achieve its aspirations and the Jordanian people to remain steadfast and true to their standards and their beliefs and carry out their mission as best as they could one generation

"As long as I live, my heart will be full of love for this people to whom I proudly belong. I thank you all for your kind feelings," King Hussein concluded. At the outset of the nicet-

after another," the King said.

ing, the prime minister expressed Jordan's good wishes to the Monarch on his birth-"I am honoured to convey

to you on behalf of the committee and the cabiner ministers our best wishes to Your Majesty on this dear occasion," said the prime minis-

The celebrations, which started in Amman today (Saturday) and will later extend to the other governorates, are an expression of the Jordanian people's allegiance to the leader of this country and their pride in the country's achievements under his reign, Sharif Zeid "I belong to a generation

the struggle and lung march over the past decades, watching Jordan progressing step by step, proud of its achievements under your reign fol-lowing in the footsteps of the Great Arah Revolt led hy Al Hussein Ben Ali and the founder of the Kingdom the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein," the prime minister

"In the name of the marchers today, farmers, students, workers, young and old men and women from all nver Jordan, and in the name of all Jordanians I would like to express our heart-felt congratulations and best wishes to Your Majesty on this hap-py occasion," he said.

Present at the meeting were the Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, Their Highnesses Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, the King's cultural secretary, and the

King's advisors.

Sharif Zeid presented the King with a gift depicting the logo of the celebrations for the King's birthday.

(Continued on page 7)



Tens of thousands holding posters of His Majesty King Hussein and banners wishing him a happy birthday march through Amman on Saturday (photo by Yousef Allan)

Saudi envoy arrives to take up office, says duty is to consolidate relations

Jordan Abdullah Budairi arrived here on Sunday, ending a four-year hiatus in the presence of a Saudi ambassador in Jordan and pledging to work towards "consolidating" Jordanian-Saudi rela-

One of the first tasks awaiting Mr. Budairi, a cousin of King Fahd and a former Saudi ambassador to Bahrain, is to prepare for a visit to Jordan by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who in turn will work with his Jordanian counter-. part Abdul Karim Kabariti on arranging a summit meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Saudi King

Mr. Budairi's acrival here marked another key point in improving Saudi-Jordanian relations strained since the Gulf crisis of 1991.

King Hussein met in New York last month with Saudi Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, who indicated after the meeting that Saudi-Jordanian relations were back to nor-

In arrival statements, Ambassador Budairi said: 'My duty is to consolidate

"I am very pleased to assume duties after a period" of strained relations, which are now "back to normal, and, God willing, they will grow stronger," he was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Meanwhile reports indicated that Kuwaitis were seeing a gradual improvement in ties with Jordan.

Reuters quoted Kuwaiti officials as saying that the emirate had no immediate plans to permit the reopening of the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait, but both sides were working gradually to end the strain in ties.

"Improving the relationship is in the process of discussion, one step at a time," one official told Reu-

"Things are not tense as they used to be," a foreign Ministry official who declined to be identified was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Mr. Kabariti met with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in Cairo in September and both sides agreed to confinue to work on improving rela-

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter the strong relations that have existed for a long time between Jordan and Saudi Aramhassador-designate to the strong relations that have existed for a long time between Jordan and Saudi Arament of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah is might be in favour of resuming normal ties with Jordan, some Kuwaiti officials and members of parliament continued to hold a grudge against the Kingdom for what they perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

> Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in comments published by Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper on Friday that it was possible to reconcile with "pro-Iraq" states that real-ised their "mistake" and showed their support for

According to Reuters, the Kuwaiti cabinet at its regular weekly meeting on Sunday might announce the upgrading of diplomanic relations with Jordan to ambassadorial level and the reopening of the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait.

The Jordanian embassy has been closed since the Gulf war and the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman is headed by a charge d'affaires after Kuwait recalled its ambassador in

Crown Prince due in Bahrain

AMMAN (J.T.) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is due in Bahrain today on a two-day visit to the country in response to an invitation from the Bahraini heir-appareni, Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khatita, the Joidan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra quoted Sheikh Hantad as welcoming Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Bahrain and paying tribute to Jordanian-Bahraini relaiions.

Sheikh Hamid, who also heads the Bahraini Defence Forces, was quoted as saying by Petra that the Crown Prince's visit was a continuation of other visits paid by Prince Hassan to Bahmin as part of efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation.

PLO, Israel nearly finalise W. Bank hand-over details Arafat to name team to Cairo talks with Hamas

Combined agency dispatches

THE PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel have nearly completed arrangements for the redeployment of Israeli troops and the hahding over of Jenin and six neighbouring West Bank villages to the PLO, a PLO official said on Satur-

Ismail Jaber, overall commander of the Palestinian security forces in the West Bank, and other senior military officials touted Jenin and inspected police stations in the villages slated to be handed over to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) on Monday.

"Most arrangements have been agreed to with the Israelis and according to our agreement with them, the Palestinian police will enter Jenin and the six villages armed and in full police uniform," Mr. Jaber said after the tour. Under the self-rule deal Israel will pull its troops out of six West Bank cities and parts of Hebron, starting in Jenin. PLO officials say the withdrawal from the six cities -

should be completed by Dec.

The redeployment is proceeding on schedule despite last week's assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who signed a Palestinian self-rule deal with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in September.

Mr. Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres, has vowed to PLO officials said the handing over ceremony would be held early on Mon-

day in Jenin's military head-

was still guarding the build-

Israel turned over the police station to Palestinian police carlier this month. A total of 1.000 Palestinian policemen were scheduled to deploy in Jenin and the surrounding district starting on Monday.

Palestinian security sources said some 500 Palestinian policemen, who had been trained over the past few months in self-ruled Jericho: were already in Jenia as civi-

Mr. Jaber said the Palestinian police would deploy in Jenin and the near by villages in two stages, the first group on Monday and the second on Tuesday. Joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols would begin on roads in the area on

said Mr. Peres will meet Mr.

'Yellow press' needs to be disciplined, but measures should conform with democracy, media experts say

By Ayman Al Safadi lordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - Journalists and media experts are agreed on the need to tighten the screws on publications that do not uphold journalistic and professional ethics but insist that measures that must be taken to curb sensational and unreliable press should conform with the democratic

His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday strongly criticised the performance of both the official media and privately-run newspapers, warning that the Kingdom would no longer tolerate publications that harm the interests of the state.

orientation of the King-

Informed sources said the government will heed the King's directives to curb "wrongdoing" by the press by amending the Press and

Publication Law to allow for stronger punishment against publications that violate the law and step on the red lines which the Constitution and the National Charter have drawn.

The current law, which was endorsed by Parliament in 1993, mainly fines publications and journalists that violate its provisions. However, the penalty code can be applied in trying cases that involve more serious violations of the law such as harming the national interests of the state or defaming the Royal Family.

Informed sources say the amendments to the law could include empowering the Cabinet with closing down temporarily or permanently publications that violate the law, a provision that existed in the pre-1993

But this should not hap-

pen, journalists and media

"We must weed out the poisonous plant but without curbing democracy," said veteran journalist and former Minister of Informatinn Mahmoud Al Sharif.

Mr. Sharif agreed with other observers that some weekly tabloids have earned the disrespect and mistrust of citizens and officials alike by ignoring professional ethics and seeking sensationalism at the expense of accuracy. But he nointed out, such a phenomenon is one of the headaches that democracy produces, citing the per-formance of the "yellow

"Democracy is a great headache but it is the least cvil of all systems of government," said Mr. Sharif, who added that solutions to

press" in Western democra-

the problems of unprofessional journalism should be in conformity with the democratic process. Jordan Press Association

(JPA) President Suleiman Al Qudha pointed to loopholes in the Press and Publication Law which can be amended in ways that would strengthen the demoeratic process rather than weaken it.

But Mr. Qudah, who is also editor-in-chief of the Al Ra'i Arabic daily, said distinction should be made between publishing political views opposed to those of the government and violation of professional rules.

Mr. Qudah said that two elements in the Press and Publication Law should be promptly addressed. The first concerns the post of chief editor where more restrictions should be put on those who should qualify

for it. He says that it is not enough to demand that chief editors should be members of the JPA because any one who is eligible for occupying such a sensitive" position should have the necessary experi-

The second loophole. which, Mr. Qudah says must be addressed is the kind of punishment that can be applied to publications and journalists who commit what he calls "professional crimes." Maximum punishment should be applied to such kind of crimes, said Mr. Qudah, adding that newspapers who know that they could end up paying significant amounts of money in fines for violatings the law will either stop breaking the law or go bankrupt and disappear

from the newstands. (Continued on page 7)

Tuesday, he said. Palestinians in Jenin said In Cairo, Egypuan officials the Israeli army had cleared most of its belongings from the military headquarters but Rabin suspects also targeted

Combined agency dispatches levels of activity: The first

ONE WEEK after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination at a Tel Aviv peace rally, police are convinced a group of religious Jews plotted the murder and planned to carry out attacks on Palestinians. Amid a national outpour-

ing of grief, thousands of Israelis used the weekend to flock to Mr. Rabin's grave in West Jerusalem and to Kings of Israel Square in Tel Aviv, where he was shot, lighting memorial candles and layingflowers at makeshift shrines. Many parents took their

children to the graveside on Mount Herzl, piled high with wreaths, poems and personal messages. Radio stations broadcast

over and over again the song of peace which Mr. Rabin sang just before he was killed, as well as old interviews with the slain premier.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal described how Jewish zealots conspired over the last two years to use violence to sabotage Israel's agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Palestinan self-rule.

"We are talking about two

was the murder of prime minister, the second was the organising by extremists to attack Palestinian targets alter the implementation of Israeli redeployment (in the West Bank), Mr. Shahal said in a television interview later on Friday.

Mr. Shahal made the statement hours after police announced the arrest of a sixth suspect in connection with Mr. Rabin's killing. All nf those in custody, including confessed assassin Yigal Amir. 25, are religious Jews.

Mr. Shahal said Amir had tried twice before to kill Mr. Rabin. "But there were apparently additional attempts in

which he and others, or others alone tried to assessinate the prime minister." Mr Shahal said, without clabor-

The murderer... belanged to a cell of Jewish activists which wanted to assassinate the prime minister based on a decree by rahbis who considered the latter as a dictator whom it was legitimate to kill in self-defence." Mr. Shahal

He refused to identify the rabbis who authorised the

Palestinians, Shahal reports assassination. However, Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun from the West Bank settlement of Ofra threatened to reveal

their names.

Orthodox Jews in New York have set up a hoteline to raise money to defend Amir and said they were being swamped with calls. Amir said in court earlier this week he killed Mr. Rabin to stop him handing over land

to the PLO. Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair gave a gloomy warning on Saturday that authorities must be on the lookout for further assassination

bids. "I am among those who thinks this murder will not lead to a sobeting of Israeli society. Mr. Ben-Yair said in remarks broadcast on distact's Channel I was referi-

"What happened (last) Saturday night, that grave incident, clears away a psychological barrier and I can envision in these circumstances another political murder raking place," he

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis were expected to

(Continued on page 7)

Netanyahu holds his fire on Arafat visit to Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (R) — Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, blamed by Yitzhak Rabin's widow for helping create a climate of hate in Israel, held his fire on Friday over Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's first public visit to Israel.

"I think a bereavement meeting is understandable." Mr. Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, said about the condolence call Mr. Arafat paid on Thursday to Mrs. Rabin's home in Tel

"I don't think it should be addressed politically," he told Reuters, six days after Mr. Rabin was assassinated by a religious Jewish militant at a Tel Aviv peace rally.

Mr. Netanyahu still refers to Mr. Arafat as a terrorist despite the Palestinian leader's 1993 peace deal with the Rabin government. He has said he will refuse to negotiate with Mr. Arafat if Likud comes to power in Israel elections scheduled for next

But the Likud leader is still stinging from bitter criticism levelled against him by Leah Rabin on Tuesday and heappeared reluctant in the Reuter interview to enter into any beated political debate over the Arafat visit.

"Surely I blame them," Leah Rabin told ABC News on Tuesday, saying Likud legislators had made speeches in parliament against the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal which she said stoked hatred of ber

ters he and acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres would meet after a traditional Jewish seven-day period of mourning "to jointly declare the need to shun physical and verbal violence.

But he insisted Likud was as committed as ever to a policy opposed to trading land for peace and decried any attempt to blame the right-wing as a whole for the actions of confessed assassin Yival Amir.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The

clear and heartfelt grief of

Yasser Arafat symbolises

how far he and Yitzhak

Rabin had moved towards

peace. The act of a Jewish

extremist who cut down Mr.

Rabin and the celebracons

by Arab opponents of con-

ciliation demonstrate how far

attendeo Monday's funeral

for the man he called "my partner and my friend." The

president was on the edge of

tears when he stood in the

Rose Garden and said,

Former presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter were

also in the large U.S. delega-

tion to the funeral. It was a

tribute to the man as well as a

signal of U.S. determination

to keep the peace process

How has Mr. Rabin's mur-

'Peace must be, and peace

will be. Prime Minister

Rabin's lasting legacy," said

der changed the prospects for

'Goodbye, friend.'

moving forward.

peace?

at Bill Clinton

the process still must go.

By Donald M. Rothberg Mr. Clinton.

"An assassin's bullet should not change the government's policy and certainly should not change the opposition's policy,'
Likud leader said.

er negotiate with him.

"It is not a personal problem between me and Mr. Arafat. It's a question of the policies of the organisation. If the PLO stops being the PLO, please come ask me. It will be an interesting question and I will be happy to

He said he did not believe Jewish civil war would erupt over the issue of giving

extremists — "the wild weeds that grow at the fringe of every camp.

rather not be elected prime minister rather than rely on

Asked for his message to armed Jewish settlers of the West Bank who disagree weith Mr. Rabin's policy, Mr. Netanyahu said: "My message to them is my message to the entire people of Israel... we will decide the future of this country in the ballot box."

He said he always regarded Mr. Rabin as "a Jewish pat-and viewed the killing as "a national tragedy," but complained there was something of a "witch-hunt" on to discredit the Israeli opposi-

He repeated his promise not to address comments by killing occurred. "We have a saying, 'you

Mr. Netanyahu said Mr.

Arafat's commitment to Israel's elimination - enshrined in the PLO charter was the reason he would nev-

back the occupied territories.
"I didn't think before Mr.

Rabin's assassination, nor do I think now, that we'll descend into civil war. The taboo is enormously power-He said he had no use for

"I say to them: 'I would

Leah Rabin, the slain leader's widow, that Mr. Netanyahu shared the blame for the violent climate in which the

don't judge a person in his



national festivities marking the 60th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein. The birthday falls on Nov. 14 (see page one) (photo by Yousef Allan)

"I think the Persian Gulf

was the turning point," said

Capt. Carter in reference to the 1991 U.S.-led multina-

tional force which retook

Kuwait from Iraqi troops in

many operations simply as the United States. The Per-

sian Gulf established a coali-

tion, and since then we have

been able to operate as allies," he said,

This year's exercise, the largest launched by the U.S. Army Central Command, in-

cludes more than 2,600 sor-ties 1 v 720 aircraft. Over 100

tanks will also take part as

well as 18 ships, including the aircraft carrier USS America.

Egypt, France, the U.S. and UAE will also hold un-

precedented "deep strike" raids using advanced attack

Marines on board the

Shreveport, fresh from joint exercises in Israel, said they

hoped the spirit of coopera-tion might overcome decades

of hostility between the Jew-

ish state and its Arab neigh-

served his country as a milit-

ary leader and Mr. Arafat

worked for Israel's destruc-

They met for the first time

at the White House in

September 1993 when they

signed the peace agreement

hetween Israel and the PLO.

With Mr. Clinton looking on.

Mr. Arafat held out his hand.

Mr. Rabin hesitated, almost

recoiled, has then reached

out. The world saw their

handshake and knew that

something significant was

happening. Their handshake did not

end the terror - Arahs against Jews, Jews against

Yet the talks went on and

Mr. Rahin emerged as a

staunch defender of his old

enemy Mr. Arafat. When the

PLO cracked down on ex-

tremists, the Israeli printe

minister was quick to ack-

Palestinians."

Apache helicopters.

'Up to then we undertook

Operation Desert Storm.

Egypt hosts major wargames with Israel in 1979.

A B O A R D U S S SHREVEPORT (R) — Twelve U.S. Marine combat swimmers leapt from belicopters into the Mediterranean on Friday preparing for a mock attack on Egypt's northern coast which will launch the Middle East's big-

gest joint war games.

The 12 marines, acting as scouts for a 2,000-strong U.S. force which was to storm ashore on amphibious craft on Saturday, plunged with inflatable dinghies into the water from two Sea Knight helicopters bovering just a few metres above the waves.

The Marines were to join landing forces from Egypt and France as well as British paratroopers, forming a coalition to repel an imaginary aggressor trying to seize vital natural resources. Exercise Bright Star.

grouping the four countries and troops from the United Arab Emirates, brings together 55,000 men for a week's training to improve coordination and underline U.S. military commitment to the region, officials say. "Bright Star is a way of Peace process has come afar, but has much more to go

demonstrating visually that the United States takes its commitments very seriously over here." the Shreveport's commanding officer, Captain Jobn Carter, told reporters on the ship's bridge.

"We are ready to respond in whatever degree is required.

Egypt, a keystone of Washington's military alliance in the Arab World, gets \$1.4 billion in annual U.S. military aid. Around 33,000 Egyptian

troops will take part, along with 22,000 from the United States - who have deployed in the U.S. since plus about 1,000 French, 500 British and just

under 200 from the UAE. The five countries will stage coordinated amphibious landings, paratroop landings in the desert, helicopter strikes behind "enemy" lines and a largescale and offensive to repel enemy forces.

Bright Star, originally a simple U.S.-Eryptian joint exercise, has been held every two years since Egypt signed a U.S.-brokered peace deal

killed in S. Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) - Police shot dead a leader of the militant Gamaa Al Islamiyah on Saturday in a gunbattle in the Fayoum region south of Cairo, police said.

Police discovered Mohammad Ibrahim, who they had been pursuing for months, in the Fayoum village of Basset, 100 kilometres south of

when police raided his hide-

Security forces broke up the cell in August and arrested 66 of its members, but Ibrahim had eluded

tant group fighting to topple the government, warned on Thursday it had renewed its attacks on foreign tourists in

ing responsibility for two train attacks in southern Egypt last week which left a total 14 injured, including two tourists. Ibiahim's death brought to

909 the number killed since March 1992 when militants began their armed campaign against the government.

Arms haul seized

nowledge it and to say, "we appreciate the efforts of the Now the people of Israel are asking themselves why Mr. Rabin sell victim in an act of terror by an Israeli.

Gamaa chief

Ibrahim was shot dead

out and arrested a colleague hiding with him, police said, Police said Ibrahim had "formed and led" a militant cell of 124 members which carried out several attacks against police in Minya province, a hothed of militunt violence, 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

The Gamaa, the main mili-

It told tourists to "go home" in a statement claim-

Egyptian security services have seized a large weapons and explosives hauf which had been smuggled from Sudan to use in militant attacks on tourists and officials, police said Salurday. Police said they found 100

Russian-made grenades, 64 Kalashnikov assault rifles, five RPG tocket launchers. 30 rockets. 15 kilogrammes (33 pounds) of powerful explosives and almost 2,000 bullets in seven separate sites in the southern Egyptian province of Aswau.

They believed "elements

from the Sudanese secret services of helping the infiltration of the weapons across the border between the two countries." a police officer

Germany defers Islamic meeting after Iran vote

BONN (R) - In a major embarrassment for German diplomacy. Bonn on Friday put back a conference on Islam planned for next week after parliament passed a shock vote saying Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati should be excluded.

Dozens of government de-puties including Parliamentary Speaker Rita Suessmuth voted with the opposition Greens and Social Democrats to exclude Mr. Velayati because Tehran had praised rhe ssassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "I consider it better to

postpone the conference. I respect the decision of parlia-ment," Mr. Kinkel said after a crisis meeting of coalition officials including Chancellor Helmut Kohl. He also denied reports be

might resign because of hissetback over the conference. which was supposed to foster greater understanding between Muslim and Western The conference only

makes sense in a situation which is not burdened by consternation over Rabin's murder and outrage about the unacceptable reaction from Tebran," Mr. Kinkel told reporters.

Germany assiduously maintains what it calls a "critical dialogue" with Iran de-spite objections from its Western allies. The Bonn conference,

planned for Nov. 15-16, was part of a bid to prove such dialogue can foster understanding between the Islamic World and the West,

Foreign ministers from Iran, Bosnia, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Pakistan were expected to attend. The parliamentary defeat

was a double embarrassment to Mr. Kinkel, showing he had not only failed to quell controversy at home about relations with Tehran but also underestimated the potential problems his "critical dialogue," could cause.

Germany's allies, led by the United States and Britain, say Iran sponsors international terrorism and should be shunned.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had labelled Mr. Rabin's murder "divine revenge" for the killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi in Maka last month, which Tehran blamed on Israel.

Mr. Kinkel told reporters oo Thursday that this reaction was unacceptable, but added that "one can't argue for a policy of dialogue (w. Iran) and not talk w

The Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran hailed the parliament's vote on Friday as a "courageons

iPeira photo

8. Francesca Ciriaci

_ HRH Princ

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Phoenix Gallery

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with by Akram Abe

Mal works by Am

Street Also dis

A retrospective of

by Dodi Taba at the French C

Weibdeh

al varied in 1996.

Prince Ghazi "The time has come for the Iprelectrical e international community to impose a complete trade embargo against this reg-ime," it said in a statement issued in Bonn.
Mr. Kinkel, clearly

angered, had to deny that the fiasco might lead to his resignation after the daily newspaper Bild issued an advance release saying he had offered

o quit.
"No, good Lord, I don't have the impression that anyone believes I should resign... the validity of the conference itself is not in doubt,"

Foreign policy experts say the confereoce was to be part of Germany's attempts since unification to take a more active diplomatic as well as military role in global affairs. It was also meant as an attempt to better understand the 2.3 million Muslims oow

living in Germany. Mr. Kinkel's failure was rubbed in by the fact that Bonn bookshops ignored his request to fill their window displays with books on Islamic themes for the duration of the conference. They said that would inter-

fere with pre-Christmas sales.

Al Azhar approves sex-change surgeries CAIRO (AFP) - Seven ter overturned the universi-

years after throwing out a medical student who changed from a man to a woman, Al Azhar, the highest Sunni Islam authority in Egypt, has permitted transsexuality under some conditions.

"A man can undergo an operation to become a woman and a woman can do the reverse if a doctor deems intervention necessary to bring out signs of femininity or masculinity which are present but hidden," a new fatwa, or religious decision, said.

"Since 1988, around 20 sex-change cases have been registered in Egypt. Most of them involve men who become women." the head of the civil status bureau. Ibrahim Beseilla, told AFP, Sex-change operations are

authorised by Egypt's doctors' union but are done quictly due to the sarcasm they raise from the public, a union source said. Sayed Abdullah, the first

known case in Egypt, ran into more than just sneers. A Azhar University threw him out of its medical school in 1988 after he underwent the operation and emerged Sali At the time, the university

condemned the transsexual as a "disgusting imitation of a woman forbidden by Islam." An administrative court laty's ruling and ordered Sali placed in Al Azhar's medical school for women. But Sali had no problem in

avoiding military service, required only for men in Egypt. She also succeeded in changing her identity card after a surprised interior ministry committee assigned with reviewing changes in the document called in doctors to testify to the first-ever change in the "sex" category on the card.

Sali also married after working as a belly dancer in a Cairo cabaret where she attracted numerous clients, not to mention the interest of the press in which her abote was everywhere. But Sali turned down an

interview with AFP, saying, "My husband is jealous and has forbidden me to speak to the press. I obey him to preserve our bappiness."

The instant press interest the revealed transsexual raise has apparently given ideas to men looking to get out of their military service and women wanong more than the half-share of inheritances "Once a farmer arrived in

a nigab (a veil that completely covers the face) and speaking in a feminine voice. He didn't expect to be examined by doctors, who confirmed that he was a man," Biseilla

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO The Flinisiones Joshuz Jones Primpy 1cr Delective

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15:35 Pugwall's Summer
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17:30 Surprise Surprise
19:00 News in French
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Magazine - Sports El Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Nurses
20:00 Dive the World
20:25 The American Chart Show
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22:00 News in English
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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

peace process over the years expressed hope that the assassination would strengthen Israeli support for reaching agreements with their Arab neighbours.

'This death must be a spur to action, to prevent the opponents of peace from destroying the process," Martin Indyk, U.S. ambassador to Israel, told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "I don't think there's any

doubt that a majority of Israelis do want peace with the Palestinians," said Mr. "I hope that nothing out of

this tragic incident of terrorism will set back the process. set back Israel's desire to talk peace," said Mr. Bush. "I don't think it will. It James A. Baker, who was

Mr. Bush's secretary of state. said part of the blame for the killing lies with the "verbal violence" that is so much a part of Israeli politics. "The rhetoric has to be cooled." he told ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

De la Salle Church Tcl. 66(757 Terrasancia Chi T.: 622366 Church Son Tcl.

Anglican Church Tel. 652826 Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

St. Ephraim Church Tcl. 771751. Amman International Church Tcl. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel:

German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tcl. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

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be northerly moderate and seas

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Mr. Arafat, leader of the Americans involved in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), did not attend Mr. Rabin's funeral. a decision Itamar Rabinovich. the Israeli ambassador to the United States, called "a sensible decision. I know that personally he would have liked to come. The situation may be such that emotions run so high... antagonism to

him personally still runs high Israel and the PLO have moved steadily, if slowly, to-wards peace. Negotiations between Israel and Syria are another matter. They remain deadlocked with no move-

ment likely in the near fu-The day before Mr. Rabin was killed. Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Israel was not ready to push forward on peace talks with Syria until the spring of

Svria's state-run media reported Mr. Rabin's assassination but did not immediately comment on it. However, Svrian soldiers stationed in Beirux joined Lebanese in

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman lo. Aqaba 22 Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

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Dr. Yousef Rashed

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Al Salam pharmacy

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AMMAN:

with some shooting their guns in the air and chanting "Hafez Hafez" a reference to Syrian leader, Hafez Al The assassination of Mr.

spontaneous celebration.

Rabin by an Israeli extremist inevitably recalls the violent death of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who was gun-ned down in 1981 by extremists opposed to the peace agreement reached by Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Peace survived the death of

Sadat. One of the mourners at Mr. Rabin's funeral was Sadat's successor. Hosni Mubarak.

Today's hope is that the far broader peace initiative now under way will survive the loss of a leader. Mr. Arafat looked visibly

shaken when he expressed the hope that "the Israelis and the Palestinians have the ability to overcome this tragedy against the peace process and the whole situation in the Middle East."

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat were blood enemies through the years that the Israeli

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**XERGENTIES

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Complaints

Amman Municipality Complaints (directiny assistance).

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Al-Basher, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
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QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

This information is supplied in Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department in the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel (IR)5.5384-5, where it should always be veri-

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) 05:30 Bangkirk (RJ)

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16:02	Benul 1 RJ
10:15	Doha, Bahrain RJ
15:15	Bruvele (R)
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13:00	Madrid, Geneva R
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MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	200/ 50
Насиса	- M
Banana (Mukammar) Cabbage Carror Cauliflower Cucumbers (large)	63
Cabhage	160 / 10
Carror	330/20
Cautiflower	170/t0
Cucumbers (large)	150 / 10
Cucumbers (small)	141 / 25
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Grapes	700/5
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iso married if Health Aref Bataineb at a is a belly dancer seminar on "community abaret where health - environmental pronumerous dr. tection and control," Prince ntion the interes Hassan noted that poverty in which her p has caused many common ywbere. diseases to reappear, such di turned down with AFP. or. and other life-threatening

band is jealous: iden me to speak s. I obey him our happiness stant press inth led transsexuals rently given idea king to get of litary service wanting more have hare of inherital a farmer arnen a veil that comple the face) and spc feminine voice pect to be exami vas a man. Re.

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President

ikel told repin iay that this " unacceptable

Cinkel clear

validity of the technology and automacc self is not in dog; processes at the Amman

University College (AUC). policy expen-The unit was established ence was to be through a five-year cooperny's attempts ation project between Italy n to take a n and Jordan aimed at olomatic as well, strengthening the role of ole in global aft. the AUC and promoting also meant a and upgrading the training better unders in the sector of generation, illion Muslim a transmission and distribution of electrical power.

The project, financed by 1 by the fact the Italian Government within the framework of developing countries' assistance programme, cost fial-(around JD 1.2 million), and started in 1990.

New equipment and technological instruments for Italian lire 1.280 billion raround JD 0.6 million) were supplied and five new laboratories were set up at -so that the achievements

Crown Prince Hassan said

Saturday that poverty was

the root cause of many

problems endangering the

world today because it

deprives a great number of

people of the ability to pur-

In an address delivered on

his behalf by Minister of

tuberculosis, zoonosis



The home where His Majesty King Hussein spent his childhood years in Jabal Amman (Petra photo)

ne has come for Prince Ghazi inaugurates college training unit against this is for electrical engineers, technical cadres

the Department of Electri-

By Francesca Ciriaci and to deny that Special to the Jordan Times

Engineering of the the daily he ZARQA — HRH Prince AUC: un electrical measurcments laboratory and 1 issued an adva Ghuzi Ben Mohammed ying he had ohe yesterday inaugurated a unit for the training of elecelectrical machines laboratory, a systems laboratory, a computers laboratory, and ood Lord, 1 d. trical engineers and technian electrical machines conmpression that cal cadres highly spetrol laboratory. ves I should cialised in electrical power

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Minister of Higher Education Rateb Sa'oud, Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini, and President of the AUC Mohammed Alia.

HRH Prince Ghazi visited the new laboratories and conferred awards on Dr. Benini and other officials of the Italian embassy as well as on the Italian experts in charge of the pro-

Stressing on the value of this project to provide a valid instrument for industrial process control of Jordan's developing industry, Massimo Maciocia, senior teacher training expert at Cotecno, the Italian company that carried out the project, said "the intervention was studied very carefully,

IMAN (Petra) - HRH (acquired immune deficien- opening session that the

The Prince urged the Jor-

danian Medical Association

(JMA) to give additional

attention to the medical

profession and its ethics.

monitoring and supervising

medical practices and urged

the association to be atten-

tive to the importance of

continued education for

He said that the IMA is

also called on to open new

scopes of cooperation with

sister Arab medical associa-

nions because such efforts

would belp eliminate many

Oumeisb Oumeisb told the

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cy syndrome).

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endemic diseases.

Seminar

could be coherent with Jordan's industrial realities, can have concrete application and serve real purpos-

Maurizio De Lucia, project manager at Cotceno, pointed out that the successful implementation of the project was also due to the spirit of collaboration and the enthusiasm showed both by the Jordanian and ltalian sides.

"The potential of the programmes and technological structures that were established is immense," Mr. Maciocia said, "and it's up to the enthusiasm of the ones who will come after to make the best uut of it."

Apart from the starting and set up of the five new laboratories, the programme included technical assistance and expens' missions, introduction of new educational material and updating of the educational programmes.

In the framework of this project also, three scholarships for training in Italian universities were awarded

convening of the three-day

seminar, which is attended

to AUC teachers. smed the was Scientists probe control of endemic diseases

> by representatives from 10 Arab states and seven foreign countries, was aimed to help sciennists and researchers discuss leishmaniases and endemic zoonosis and the impact of development on their spread and control mea-

The gathering has been organised by the Higher NPC. The Council for Science and Technology (HCST), the Ministry of Health and the University of Jordan in addition to the international Development Research

AMMAN (Petra) - HRH activities in the Kingdom Crown Prince Hassan Satover the past years stressurday voiced Jordan's ing that JICA will pursue its backing for the Kingdom's appreciation to Japan for its development efforts. continued assistance to the

The delegation met earli-Kingdom in helping it to er with Minister of Plancarry out development projects especially in building up its national information ning Rima Khalaf and reviewed JICA's development aid programmes to Jordan and ways to increase JICA's activities io Court with a visiting team

representing the Japanese International Cooperation the Kingdom. The JICA team is in Agency (JICA) and led by Amman earlier Saturday to JICA Director Kimo Fujita, follow up on maners related to the agency's aid to the Crown Prince said Jordan was grateful to Japan Jordan's industrial endeavfur its continued economic ours in the southern goverassistance and its role in norates of the Kingdom. helping to enhance Middle During their five-day

visit to Joidan the team will meet other Jordanian officials and tour the Sahab City Industrial Amman as well as the Free Trade Zone in Zarqa and sites of future industrial zones in southern Jordan.

A Ministry of Planning statement said that JICA established a permanent office in Amman in 1991 with the purpose of supervising the implementation



of JICA-financed projects in the Kingdom. The office has also been implemenong involving programmes Japanese volunteers and experts' contributions to Jordanian development schemes and organising training courses for Jordan-

Visiting Japanese team reviews aid to Jordan,

explores potential development areas

ian personnel. Lately, the statement said. JICA has financed the procurement of medical equipment for the Ministry of Health and equipment used for maintenance for the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and for the Greater

Municipality's workshops and machines.

At the meeting with Dr. Khalaf, the JICA delegation reviewed the progress of a project to increase food

'Growth indicators spell need for national population strategy'

By Amy Henderson Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Speaking at the Royal

East peace through its

chairmanship of the work-

ing group on the environ-

ment in the multilateral

phase of the peace process.

Jurdanian-Japanese dia-

logue to open the way for

cooperation between the

Middle East countries and

The JICA director pre-

sented to the Crown Prince

an outline of the agency's

those in the Far East,

Prince Hassan called for

AMMAN — The initial results of Jordan's 1994 census released late last year showed that the Kingdom's population nearly doubled since the last census in 1979.

Today, Jordan's popula-tion numbers 4.095 million, with an annual population growth rate of 4.35 per cent, one of the highest in the world, according to the National Population Commission (NPC).

By the year 2000, the population will number 4.8 million, and by the year 2005, some 5.6 million, the NPC said.

Although the government bas in past years supported birth spacing projects to stabilise the population growth and improve mother/child healthcare, it has yet to adopt a national population strategy, which, says Abdel Rahim Maaytah, a researcher for the NPC, is essential for Jor-

which approved a national population strategy among its own ranks, submitted a national strategy for population to the Cabinet late last month, which the commission says should be considered in

parallel with economic and environmental development strategies.

Prospects for economic prosperity seem bright, with the rate of unemployment set to drop, and Jordan's dire water situation, especially in densely populated areas, will be somewhat alleviated by peace with Israel.

Yet, the facts remain that Jordan's population is a young one — 42.5 per cent of the population is 14 years of age or younger and fertility (the number of live births per woman1 stands at approximately 5.6, characterishes that are sure to produce a strain on the economy, social services and Jordan's limited

natural resources. Without a coherent strategy, says Mr. Maaytah, the sustainable development that Jordan is working to attain, will be difficult. at

"What good is development planning without population planning? If you restore water to today's population, it doesn't mean there will be enough for the next generation and those

to follow." Jordan today is close to semi-advanced countries in terms of infant mortality. but in terms of fertility, is

Akram Abdel Jaber pays homage to life and its beauty

on a par with developing countries.

According to the population commission, the trend in fertility is going down: It now stands at 5.6 compared to 6.6 during the last decade, and 8 during the However, said Mr. Maay-

tah, it is still a far cry from the fertility rate in industrialised countries, which is estimated at 1.8. He attributes this to the success among health institutions in educating families about birth spacing. "People are learning to space their children, which is not only good for the health of the mother and child, but helps stabilise the population."

Mr. Maaytah said that final results of Jordan's 1994 census (due to be released before the end of the year) may show that number to be as low as five, a positive sign, be says, but does not offset the fact that popularion Jordan's increased by 300,000 dur-

ing the 1990 Gulf crisis. "Our emphasis should be on reducing the fertility rate, with an emphasis on family planning, but the issue in Jordan is quite complex," he said citing the geographical distribution of population, the waves of refugees absorbed during

the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967, Jordanian returnees during the Gulf crisis and the lack of natural resources combined with the distribution of natural resources.

As for family planning, a 1990 survey showed that 35 per cent of Jordanian women practiced family planning

Mr. Maaytah expects the figure to be 46 per cent in 1995 and 50 per cent by the year 2000, which is par for a developing country. The structure of a devel-

oping country's population rests on several factors, he said, primarily the education of women, women's occupation and the tradidons and religion of the society in question.

The education of women in Jordan bas averted what could have been a more serious population problem, he said.

"Owing to Jordan's push since the 1960s to educate and employ women bas meant that women do not get married as young as they used to," he said. "The average age of marriage for women used to be around 16, but 10day, it is 23-24 years old. This means that women aren't having children as early as they used

But, he added, the role of women in development bas been somewhat limited. According to the NPC,

women's role in economic activities is still low - 13 per cent participation rate for females age 15 and over. If women were more involved, be said, the fertility rate would probably be considerably lower.

Beyond the issue of women, Mr. Maaytah said, Jordan needs to rationalise the population distribution geographically.

"We need economic projects that attract the population out of our most popnlated areas," he said, "and that would also keep people from migrating from country to city. Jordan today is a 78 per cent urban society with 40 per cent of people living in Amman goverooraie."

The strategy also is calling for a broader approach to educating society about the need for population and family planning. "We need more concentration on population education in the school curriculum," Mr. Maaytah said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

Classical music by Somer Group at Darat Al Funun at

SEMINAR

*Marking His Majesty King Hussein's 60th Birthday: Achievements & Challenges," with the participation of Dr. Paysir Abdul Jabir and Mr. Abdul Hadi Majali at Abdul lameed Shoman Foundation at 6.00pm.

LECTURE "Germany and the Emergence of a New Middle East," in Arabic, by Dr. Mohammad Abu Hantash at Goethe Institut at 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL Recital of poems penned by poets of the 1990s at

the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00p.m. **EXHIBITIONS**

"Jerusalcm" display of works by Jordanian and Iraqi irtists at Orfali Art Gallery.

Works by Iraqi Artist Ismail Fattah at Darat Al Funun, abal Weibdeh Works by Akram Abdel Jaber at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal

Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.

Metal works by Ammar Khammash at Liwan, off Wadi Sagra Street. Also displaying all kinds of handicrafts. (Tel

Works by Nazih Abu Afesh at Balka Art Gallery, Fuheis. A retrospective of works by Mona Saudi at Darat Al

By Ica Wahbeh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Centre in Canada.

Amman - Instituto Ccrvantes is hosting a painting exhibition of Jordanian artist Akram Abdel Jaber. A graduate of the Institute of Fine Arts and Music in Jordan and a member of the Jordanian Artists Association, the artist is an avowed

a businessinan "to make a living." On a crisp end of autumn day, with Tchaikovsky playing in the background, Mr. Abdel Jaber's exhibition casts an optimistic view of life with a heart-

classical music fan and also

warming profusion of The oil and pastel paintings, (two crayons of Petra make the exception where the medium is concerned) depict Jordanian landscapes in spring and summer, with clear skies and flowers in full bloom, with clear water meandering through lush grass or dark pink olean-

Old runs are overgrown with vegetation in most of the paintings; stones are strewn among growth of varied colouring or careful-ly, geometrically built in walls of ancient castles or

Arched doorways and flower pots on the window sill, "just like our old house", suggest buman presence and history as the immensity of the desert and the pervading vegetation suggest infinity of time and

Majestic irises take centre piece in a frame, with the dark indigo/violet of the petals striking over the dark green leaves.

An imposing tree overshadows the whole canvas. trying to get out of the restraining frame, shading it and suggesting delicious coolness on a hot summer

Moss-tinged ruin stones and slabs bleached by centuries of sun, shade and light contrast to give an air of mystery and to bring life to the landscape otherwise devoid of human presence.

The artist manages to

magnificently render the desert in Wadi Araba and the deserted Wadi Rum. The colours suggest a calm sunset; purple-nuanced ochre or greenish beige desert dunes host bushes of desert plants, solitary in the vastness surrounding them and proof of life prevailing stronger than the arid envirountent and sterile rocks of

the wasteland. Palm trees, olive groves, poplars and oaks fill places as tamiliar as Salt, Rarak, Shohak, Urnni Oals, Jerush,



Landscape by Akram Abdul Jaber

Azraq and Amman.

Details are meticulously observed. Even wide-swept swaths of colour are not done in one stroke of brush but with myriads of touches faithfully reproducing

Life is either vaguely hinted at in one earlier painting or is strongly felt in two canvases each portraying a woman. Serenely seared among colourful

flowers or pensively holding a bouquet of flowers on an anil blue background, the women are as suggestive of life and fertility as all the artist's paintings are. It is an effusive homage to life and its beauty that Akram Abdel Jaber offers in his exhibition that opened on Nov.8 and will show until Nov. 18.

Nigerians stunned by executions

gerians were shocked Saturday to read newspaper headlines of the execution of minority rights campaigner Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight associates.

yet but independent newspapers broke the news with headlines like "Ken Saro-Wiwa hanged" and "Saro-Wiwa, eight others hanged".

"This is unbelievable," said nurse Bola Laditan as she scanned the headlines from a newspaper vendor. "1 never thought they would go ahead with it." she

"May their souls rest in peace," said street trader Chukwuma Nwafor in central Lagos.

Saro-Wiwa and his kinsmen, who had campaigned for the rights of the Ogoni people in Nigeria's oil-rich south, were hanged for murder Friday despite internanonal calls for clemency.

Two wrongs don't make a right," commented taxi driver Festus Shadipe as dozens of people surveyed newspaper headlines along street in central hroad Lagos.

Reporters in the oil city of Port Harcourt, where the executions took place, said troops and riot police hacked hy tanks were deployed at strategic sites and it was calm.

The Guardian newspaper said Saro-Wiwa's wife, Hauwa, weeping at their home in Port Harcourt Friday, confirmed the death of her hushand but pleaded she was in no mood to talk.

Africa's most populous nation has reeled from crisis to crisis since 1993 when the army annulled a presidential election to end a long period of military rule. Military ruler General Sani Abacha has promised a

LAGOS (R) - Many Ni- return to civilian rule but his government has also arrested opposition leaders and cracked down on crime with televised executions.

Western critics of his government were relieved last Radio and television have month when Gen. Abacha. not reported the executions an infantry officer, bowed to local and foreign pressure and commuted the sentences of more than 40 alleged coup plotters, including former ruler Olusegun Obasanjo.

But Gen. Abacha's announcement of a threeyear transition period to civil rule was crificised as taking ton long.

Last week, a tribunal sentenced Saro-Wiwa and the eight members of his Movement for the Survival of Ogoni Peoples (MOSOP) to hang for the murder last year of pro-government Ogoni chiefs.

The defendants' lawyers resigned before the verdict saying the trial was unfair and critics of Nigeria's government said Saro-Wiwa and his associates were being punished for daring to threaten Nigeria's oil industry, its economie lifeblood.

Saro-Wiwa, 54, had led a campaign for self-determination for the 500,000 Ogoni minority and to protect the environment in their homeland, which has been exploited by foreign oil companies since 1954.

A recipient of Austria's top human rights award, the Bruno Kreisky Prize, he was recently nominated for the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize, according to a statement in Lagos Friday hy Nordie countries.

Western nations have reacted angrily to the executions with the United States announcing an arms embargo against Nigeria and other governments, including Washington, recalled amhasEnvoys recalled

President Bill Clinton recalled the U.S. amhassador and threatened U.N. action against Nigeria as its hanging of nine minority rights activists sparked glohal fury.

Britain, Germany, Austria and South Africa joined the United States in recalling their diplomatic representarives from Nigeria. White House spokesman

Mike McCurry said Mr. Clinton bad told the U.S. ambassador to the United Madeleine Nations. Alhright, to begin consultadons immediately on appropriate U.N. measures "10 condemn these actions" hy Nigeria's military government

Mr. Clinton also ordered a halt to military sales to Nigeria and extended a han on issuing U.S. visas to Nigerian government officials and military officers.

Nigeria, a major oil producer, his back at criticism during angry exchanges in the U.N. Security Council, accusing other countries of meddling in its affairs.

"We regard it as gross interference in our internal affairs," said Nigeria's deputy representative. Isaac Ayewah.

British Amhassador Sir John Weston, reading a Reuters report, announced news of the executions at a formal Security Council debate on Liberia. The States, Italy, and France United Germany departed from scripted speeches to deplore the action.

A White House official said an oil embargo was not under consideration hut Mrs. Albright might seek support for measures "which could affect their oil industry". He indicated this could include restricting oil Reuters.

equipment exports to Nigeria.

ltaly's Ambassador Francesco Paulo Fulci greeted the news from Nigeria with "sbock and horror" and said: "You can hang people hut you can never hang ideas and ideals."

British Prime Minister John Major said the executions flew in the face of the Commonwealth's 1991 Harare Declaration on democracy and human rights.
"I do not think that is

acceptable, I see no way in which it can be defended and, if the Harare principles mean anything, I do not myself see how Nigeria can stay in the Commonwealth until they return to democratic government," he told reporters.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said Africa was "full of disgust" at the hangings and Nigeria's military government appeared bent on self-destruction.

"It is not only horrifying, but an act of disrespect for all of us who are trying to assist Nigeria to come out of the difficult situation in which it finds itself," be

In Brussels, the European Union condemned the executions and said the 15nation bloc would re-examine relations with Nigeria. South African Archbisbop

Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, said be was devastated.

"This Nigerian military dictatorship should know that the world does care about such gross violations and the first (action against them) should be that they must be kicked out of the Commonwealth," he told

Nigerian Foreign Minister Tomi Ikimi avoids waiting reporters and their questions regarding the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa, as he leaves his hotel in Auckland (AFP

Commonwealth suspends Nigeria over hanging; threatens expulsion

QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand (R) — The Commonwealth suspended Nigeria Saturday as punishment for hanging nine minority rights activists and threatened its military rulers with outright expulsion unless they restored democra-

The penalty was unprecedented in the history of the Commonwealth, a 52strong cluh grouping Britain and its former colonies, and reflected deep revulsion over Nigeria's human rights record over a number of years, ministers said.

Only Gambia, itself under military rule, dissented from the decision, which came just a day after Nigeria ignored international appeals for clemency and banged writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight associates. The Solomon Islands, which also dissented initial-

ly, later fell into line. Not even South Africa under its former apartheid regime was booted out of the Commonwealth - it walked out without waiting to be ejected in 1961. British officials said

Nelson Mandela, president of newly democranc South Africa, was a driving force behind the decision to get

recommended suspension filment of these conditions after winning support for within a time frame to be official said.

the move at a caucus of African states.

He galvanised the summit hy recalling how much strength he drew during his years as a political prisoner from the knowledge that the outside world was pressing South Africa 10 introduce democracy.

British Prime Minister John Major also spoke strongly in favour of suspension, as did Australia's Paul Keating, who argued that the Commonwealth's future influence and status depended on its taking firm

The commonwealth leaders, holding their biennial summit at an idyllic mounlain resort on New Zealand's South Island, bluntly told General Sani Ahacha to take immediate steps to adhere to the cluh's principles of democracy. rule of law and good gover-nance agreed in Harare in

They specifically called for the release of 43 alleged coup plotters, including former head of state Olusegun Ohasanjo, as well as the release of the presumed winner of Nigeria's annulled 1993 election, chief Moshood Abiola.

"They further decided that They said Mr. Mandela was made towards the ful- could

stipulated, Nigeria would be expelled from the association," according to a statement read out hy summit host Jim Bolger, the prime minister of New Zealand.

The deadline for Nigeria to comply has not yet been agreed, but British officials said Mr. Abacha's promise to restore democracy within three years was not good enough Mr. Bolger said the expul-

sion was not agreed lightly. "A number of Commonwealth leaders have over many, many weeks sought through quiet diplomacy to persuade the government of General Abacha to come into compliance with the principles articulated in the Harare Declaration." Mr. Bolger told reporters.

"This is something that senior Commonwealth leaders, some of them from Africa and some of them from elsewhere, have been exercised about and concerned about for some time," he said.

Although the summit did not consider collective sanctions, British officials said they would be discussed at the United Nations and by the European Union.

"There are some shots in deployed," a senior British

U.K. crown jewels security to be privatised

LONDON (AFP) - The crown jewels in the Tower of London are to be guard. ed hy a private security firm from next July, and Prime Minister John Major's safety will also be entrusted to private hands the Guardian reported. The paper said a leaked cabine document also revealed plans to privatise security at the Foreign Office, the Treasury and at magistrates courts. The disclosure comes days after Downing Street security was embarrassed hy a reporter gaining access to Mr. Major's office without a pass. A few months ago the government's security facilities executive beat off private competition to hold on to the contracts for both the crown jewels and Downing Street. But the leaked letter reveals that Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine has insisted that the services be privatised by July 1996. The famous "Beefeaters," retired soldiers dressed in hive or red Tudor uniforms, complete with halberd battle-axe, who have kept watch over the crown jewels at the Tower of London for nearly 700 years, are not expected to leave their post.

snakes, scorpions kiil 100,000 each year - WHO

GENEVA (AFP) Snakes, scorpions and other poisonous creepycrawlies kill more than 100,000 people each year worldwide, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said. Around five million are hinen or stung hy venimous creatures annually hut the greatest proportion of the deaths occur in developing countries, where many of the victims are farm-workers. who said in its latest weekly bullerin on epidemics. In Ásia alone, snakes kill 30,000 people a year, compared to 1,000 in Africa and South America. In other hand, bites are rarely deadly. Some 45,000 people suffer snake-bites in the United States each year but only nine to 15 are killed in consequence. An average two of the 300 to 500 people bitten by snakes die each year in Australia. In Mexico, 300 of the 63,000 people bitten by snakes and scorpions die while around one per cent of Brazil's 8,000 scorpion bites prove. deadiy as do 1.5 per cent of the country's 20,000 snake-

No supernaturai force in China's 'Bermuda triangle'

BEIJING (AFP) — The mystery of China's

"Bermuda triangle," which has swallowed 100 people

since the 1950s, has no connections with the supernatural, a recent scientific survey has found. A team of geologists, biologists and anthropologists who spent the past month studying the "most mysterious parts" of black bamboo ravine in the southwestern province of Sichuan found nothing ahnormal, the Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday. "We have found no signs indicating that there is a supernatural force, said the head of the team, Yang Yong. Since the 1950s, around 100 people have been reported missing in the area, with rescuers unable to recover any bodies - leading to the labelling of the ravine as the "Bermuda triangle" of China. In 1950, a private plane piloted by an American banker crashed in the ravine for an unknown reason, while 12 years later, five Chinese geologists and one of their two guides vanished after penetrating its stone gate pass. "The geological structure is very complex and the climate is quite changeable. Those people might have died of hunger or bypothermia because of insufficient preparation."
Mr. Yang said.

Troops on alert in Kashmir as panel scraps poll Narasimha Rao's cabinet. of National Conference Conference bowed out from

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) - Troops were put on high alert bere Saturday after India's Election Commission rejected the federal government's plans to bold strife-torn Kashmir.

Tronps patrolled markets and business districts to thwart attacks by Muslim separatists, who hailed the panel's verdict as a "victory" for Kashmiris opposed to the elections.

Hawkers were sent packing from the streets by soldiers who moved in coovoys of trucks in Srinagar. the buh of a raging Muslim secessionist campaign which has left more than 12,000 people dead in Kashmir since 1989.

We were expecting a rise in violence," said Kashmir police Chief Mahinder Sabbarwal, of fears that juhilant Muslim militants would intensify attacks following the election commission's verdict late Friday.

Commissioner T.N. Seshan rejected the proposal of

saying the situation in Kashmir was "not consistent with the conduct of a fair and free elections."

Residents said they following the panel's word as they were fearing an outbreak of violence if New Delbi's plans to conduct elections bere by mid-December bad been en-

"I bad decided to stay out of Kashmir in case polls were held," said Farook Baksbi, a businesman. There would be a spurt of violence if elections are ordered in the Kashmir

several Muslim guerrilla leaders said the panel's verdict bailed out the Indian government, adding it could never have conducted polls in Kashmir.

Other Kashmiri politicians welcomed the deci-

"We are very happy over the decision of the commission as things are bad here and elections would not have been free or fair," said

Party, Kashmir's oldest political entity.

The Conference Thursday said it would not take part in. the polls as long as violence its ally in Kashmir, the Congress (I) Party of Prime Minister Rao.

The Conference came to power with Congress backing after the last elections were held in Kashmir in 1987 which Muslim political and rebel groups say

was rigged. Mr. Rao's cabinet last Saturday voted for legislative elections in Kashmir by mid-December and forwarded the recommendation to Mr. Seshan's panel, the only forum empowered to take a decision on polls.

Mr. Seshan said he would wait for "the creation of conditions appropriate to the bolding of fair and free elections" in Kashmir, under direct federal rule since Jan. 19, 1990.

Mr. Seshan rejected allegations that he bad turned down elections under pressure from the Congress Minister P.V. Farooq Abdullah, president because the National 1987.

elections.

"The government did its duty (by suggesting polls), and we did ours," Mr. Seshan said. "Ours is a good decision.

Muslim militant and political parties in Kashmir had said they would boycott the elections, despite Mr. Rao's assurance of greater autonomy to the Himalayan state bordering Pakistan.

The All Parties' Hurriyat Conference, grouping 30 Muslim separatist and political parties, which also opposed balloting, said Mr. Sesban's decision was a slap to India's image abroad.

"India will confinue facing humiliation in the international front," said Hurriyat leader Maulvi Ahhas Ansari Saturday. Kashmiris have voted

seven times to elect provincial governments since 1962, with voters' turnouts at polling stations reaching as high as 75 per cent in

Senator: CIA consistently failed to warn president of tainted information

WASHINGTON (AP) - A review of the Aldrich Ames spy scandal indicates that the CIA consistently failed to warn the president when its information came from questionable sources, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee

Sen. Arlen Specter said the panel's investigation of the Ames case has identified 95 cases where there was "some concern" for the source of material distributed to various government officials by the CIA. In 35 of those cases, he

said, the ClA knew the information came from sources controlled hy Soviet intelligence. The committee analysing a report on the

damage caused during the years Ames was a Soviet spy while working as a counterintelligence officer for the CIA. CIA Director John Deutch has said the Ames case pro-

"a devastating record" that will take years Ames is serving life in

prison for spying for the former Soviet Union.

One aspect of the report on the Ames case was the disclosure that CIA officials passed on information without warning that it came from sources known to be controlled by the KGB. "We are now in the process of identifying what

information went on these 95 occasions, whom it went to, what decisions it may bave influenced and what the importance of those decisions was in terms of arms control or weapons systems," said Sen. Specter. He speculated last week after the initial hearing on the Ames report that some of the tainted information may have influenced weapons procurement decisions and led to the expenditure of hillions of dollars

on unneeded weapoos. "We can tell that on 11 occasions materials went to the president," said the Pennsylvania senator. "Oddly chough, when materials went to the president there was no indication at all as to a questioned When the same material

went to other government officials, he said, there often was a warning that the source was of questionable reliability. In no case did the warning say that the source was controlled by the KGB. "There was less (warning) when it went to the president than when it went to

the Department Defence," said Sen. Specier. The tainted material was distributed between 1986 and 1994. Scn. Specier said he could identify only one instance in which material went to President Bill Clinion, and that was a report in early January 1993 that went 10 President George Bush and was

Sen. Specter said the intelligence panel has not been told whether any material regarded as questionable was passed on to Mr. Clinton since he took office.

passed along to Mr. Clinton

when he was president-

Indian opposition presses attack on government

BOMBAY(R) — India's eral elections due by main opposition party, staging a massive preelection political convention, pressed home its attack on Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress Party Saturday, saying it bad failed on all fronts.

"Never in the history of independent India (has) its respect plummeted so low and its voice (been) ignored without consideration as during the past five years," a resolution at the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) convention said.

Today its sovereignty can be questioned without hesitation and security can be threatened without trepidation."

Organisers said more than 130,000 delegates had arrived for the threeday convention at a racecourse in India's commercial capital. The BJP plans the meeting as a springboard for its assault on power in gen-

next June.

"The failures of this last Congress regime are truly breathtaking. Its record of crime and corruption, its neglect of national interest and its subservience to foreign interest constitute a new low in political immorality," the resolution, proposed by former BJP Murli President Manohar Joshi, said.

The Congress Party has ruled India for all but four years since independence from Britain in BJP President Lal

Krishna Advani says the coming election campaign should be a stocktaking on nearly 50 years of Congress rule. He says the party has failed in its promise at independence to try to end poverty, ignorance and

disease. The BJP is basing its campaign on promises to clean up politics and to introduce "swadeshi", a

nationalist approach to economics that favours Indian producers and products over foreign ones and encourages the country's dominant agricultural sector.

"It is time for the Congress Party to take a rest. Here in Bombay we make a call for the Congress to go into permanent rest," BJP General Secretary Venkiah Naidu told General thousands of delegates gathered under a huge open tent erected on the racecourse.

The BJP resolution attacked Congress over its handling of Kashmir, saying it "has bungled the Kashmir issue from day

The BJP convention Saturday heard a call to put Kashmir — now under the federal government's administration - under military rule, and the party resolution said Mr. Rao had "encouraged extremists to internationalise the issue." "If Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir," Naidu said in an attack on the involvement of India's neighbour and arch-foe in the disputed territory. "India is incomplete without Pakistan - this is the answer the BJP gives today." The party renewed its

attack on what it sees as the corruption within the ruling "The government has much to hide and is not interested in exposing or

punishing either political criminals or criminal politicians," the resolution said. It also hit ont again at what it called the government's shameful subservience to foreign inter-

"Not content with letting foreign banks milk the economy, it is preparing to let foreign insurance companies come and do the same," it said.

N.Korea names Israel a terrorist nation

TOKYO (AFP) - North Korea Saturday seized upon the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish extremist a week ago to brand Israel as a "terrorism-fostering country."

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the murder "shows once again in which country terrorism is occuring."

"Terrorist acts are common phenomena in the United States and its satellite nations which label other countries as terrorist states," he was quoted as saying by the official Korean Central News

Agency (KCNA) monitored

'The assassination of the Israeli prime minister is an unavoidable thing in such a terrorism-fostering country as Israel," the spokesman added. "the DPRK (North Korea), a dignified member nation of the United Nations, maintains its consistent stand of opposing all

types of terrorism and assistance to it." The United States has in the past repeatedly accused North Korea as well as Cuba; Iran, Lihya and other countries of serving as ter-

rorist havens. North Koren has been widely seen as responsible for such terrorist acts as the 1983 attack on a South Korean presidential delegation in Rangoon and the 1987 bombing of a South Korean airliner off Burma.

In 1993, Israel hriefly contacted North Korca in an effort to halt suspected Scud missile sales in the middle east hy the cash-strapped hardline Communist state.

During his visit to Tokyo late last year. Mr. Rabin warned against North Korea's transfer of nuclear and missile technology to Middle East countries.

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military offensive against Jaffna (AFP photo)

Chechenya region oy ruling

Chechen politician Ruslan

Mr. Khashulatov, former

speaker of the disbanded

Russian parliament that

revolted against Mr. Yeltsin

in 1993, said all the prereq-

uisites for fresh peace talks

"There is a real chance to

end the conflict by peaceful

means," he told reporters at

a meeting organised by

not make a declaration stat-

ing his desire to resolve this

conflict purely by political

quoted Gen. Grachev as

saying after about 90 min-

utes with Mr. Yeltsin at

Moscow's Central Clinical

Hospital that Mr. Yeltsin's

condition was "good" and

Prime Minister Viktor

Chemomyrdin was quoted

as saying the 64-year-old

president would soon be

of working and keeps a tight

rein on the situation in the

as on the armed forces,"

Interfax quoted Gen.

The presidential press ser-

vice said in a statement that

Mr. Yeltsin and Gen.

Grachev had discussed the

defence minister's talks on

Defence Secretary Robert

McNamara said he came in

the former enemy capital

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pernatural in China's ida triangle (AFP) - The of China)

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McNamara was once one of the most reviled names in North Vietnam. Schools still teach children to admire a guerrilla who tried to assassinate Mr. Massassinate Mr.

HANOI (AP) — Former cuted. But in memoirs published this year, he revealed that he left office convinced the war was a terrible mistake. He came to Hanoi for the first time to ask the

but to help make the 21st century less bloody than the Vietnamese to take part in a conference of top Vietnam "It's the bloodiest century War decision-makers. The New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, which is organising the gathering, says it would be an opportunity to share archival materials and discuss why early peace initiatives failed.

Foreign Assistant Minister Dao Huy Ngoc As defence secretary from said the conference is a good idea and can be held in Hanoi next autumn "if the

preparations go well." From the moment Mr. McNamara arrived Tuesday, reporters asked him bow he felt to be in a city ermia because Mr. McNamara in bomb attacks. He finally answered at a news conferthat be once targeted for

ence on his last day. "My overriding emotion at the moment is one of - ob, call it gratitude," he said. "I've been greeted with cordiality, not bostility, and with interest in the propos-

als we are making." Asked if his journey was one of atonement, he replied, "no, no, not atonement. We all make mistakes in life and I'm not trying to atone for mine."

Throughout the visit he brushed aside questions about whether he should apologise or the United States should make compensation to Vietnam for war damages.

"Atonement or non-atonement is not going to have much to do with preventing conflict," he told the news conference. 'The prevention of conflict will result from human beings understanding each other better." Mr. Ngoc agreed. "It is a Communist side.

McNamara is 'seeking world peace, not atonement' good idea to look back at the war and to draw from the war necessary lessons for our future generations,"

> Mr. McNamara also said he did not bring up one of the lingering war wounds on the U.S. side - questions about the fate of more than 1,600 Americans still listed as missing from the war. He said he was not an expert on the subject.

so far have published little about the visit, but their reporters were as riveted as Americans by the scene Thursday of the former hawk sitting side by side with his former nemesis, retired Gen. Vo Nguyeo Giap, giving a final body count: 58,000 on the U.S. side, more than 3 million fighters and civilians on the

Suicide bombers attack Sri Lankan capital; 15 dead

Tiger suicide Tamil bombers blew themselves up in the heart of Colombo's tourist district Saturday, killing 15 people, while the Sri Lankan military reported heavy rebel casualties in its northern offensive.

Military intelligence sources said one of the bombers penetrated army headquarters while the second blew himself up 300 metres away at the capital's Slave Island Railway

His body was blown 50 metres and landed on the railway track, one witness said.

"There's just confusion here with everyone screaming and shouting. There are limbs and body parts spread over 50 yards. It is impossible to tell the dead from the wounded," a witness said minutes after the blast.

The intelligence sources said the second bomb killed 15 civilians and altogether 59 people had been taken to bospital. Hospital sources said some of the wounded were severely maimed.

The bomber who penetrated army HQ was undergoing an identity check at the entrance when he suddenly burst 10 metres into the complex and detonated plastic explosives strapped to his waist, the military

The intelligence sources, who said two soldiers were wounded, added that both bombers were members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), whn are fighting for a borneland in the north and east of the country.

The military said more than 230 Tamil Tiger rebels and government troops died in fierce battles that raged near the gates of Jaffna City Friday, when the armed forces resumed their advance across the island's north after a two-week lull.

A total of 188 of the dead were from the LTTE and 45 soldiers also died, the military statement said, adding that 300 rebels and 100 soldiers were wounded.

The army, which first launebed its offensive against the rebels on Oct. 17, was advancing on

City, which is at the heart of a homeland the LITE want to establish.

Most of the town's civilian residents have fled, joining between 100,000 and 500.000 refugees camped at Chavakachcheri, east of Juffna City, and south across the Jaffna Lagoon in and around Kilinochchi in the mainland.

Reporting on the suicide bombings in Colombo, the Sri Lankan News Agency quoted senior military sources as saving that the second bomber "ran into a crowd of civilians who were witnessing the incident" and blew himself up.

Security forces cordoned off the luxury Taj Samudra Hotel next to the army HO after reports of gunfire and searched the arc-shaped. 400-roomed building floor by floor, the intelligence sources said.

One guest said she saw a man lying in the sixth floor comidor "with what looked like bullet wounds". He was believed to be a hotel employee.

Within a kilometre radius

strategic points near Jaffna of army HQ lie the president's home temple trees, the Ministry of Industries, the U.S. embassy, as well as top tourist hotels.

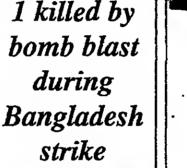
The LTTE have hit targets in Sri Lanka's capital, in the southwest, since the army's northern offensive.

On Oct. 20, they blew up iwn key oil installations in Colombo, sending towering flames into the night sky. More than 20 people were killed, including at least one suicide bomber.

A few weeks earlier, a suicide bomber blew up 24 people in the fashionable Embassy District of the 10wn, an explosion which police said was originally targeted at a passing motor-

A shadowy group called Ellalan Force, believed to be a front for the LTTE, bas threatened tourist targets and last year detonated minor bombs in two hotels. A bomb at the airport earlier this year failed to explode.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in the war which has raged since 1983.



DHAKA (R) — A bomb killed a man and 50 people were injured in clashes between police and opposition activists enforcing a day-long strike across Bangladesb on Saturday, witnesses said.

The strike virtually paralysed all major cines, including the port of Chittagong, and largely they said.

The stoppage was the latest in a series of opposition-organised strikes and transport blockades to force Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down and allow elections under a non-partisan caretaker administration.

Mrs. Khaleda has rejected the demands so far. Bombs were burled in

several protests, killing one person. Police said they found a tattered identity card indicating the victim, whose body was torn apart, was a college student.

Enamul Huq Shamim, chief of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the main opposition group Awami League, was among dozens injured when police used batons to break up pickets near Dhaka's main government secretariat.

Witnesses said police attacked stick-carrying activists at several other areas in the capital city of nine million.

Opposition parties. including the Awami League, also urged Bangladeshis to observe half-day strikes across the country over the next five

Nearly 5,000 police and paramilitary troops were deployed in the Dhaka to protect public property.

Witnesses said there was no transport on the streets except for a few rickshaws. Shops were closed and trains and river ferries were at a standstill. Domestic flights were mostly cancelled. .

In Chittagong, protesters damaged nearly 40 rickshaws and hurled homemade bombs at police. No injuries were reported, local officials said. All port activities

remained suspended. The Stock Exchanges in Dhaka and Chinagong were closed.

In the northeastern district of Sylhet, protesters burled bome-made bombs at a police car and ransacked the office of the 10wn administrator, local reporters said.



Spanish businessman Javier De La Rosa speaks during an interview with Spanish agency EFE about his presumed attempt to blackmail King Juan Carlos to get his

King dragged into Spain's crisis

MADRID (R) - King Juan Carlos was dragged into the maelstrom of Spain's political crisis when authorities decided to investigate reports that two disgraced financiers had tried to

blackmail the monarch. The ruling Socialist Party of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, himself wounded by corruption scandals and a 1980s secret war on ETA rebels, immediately appealed to all parties to keep the king - the ulnmate guarantor of Spain's

20-year-old democracy out of the political battleground. King Juan Carlos was sucked into the turbulence

when the daily Diario 16 said Friday a former Kuwaiti representative in Spain and another fallen financier, using as leverage earlier favours in the palace, had tried to pressure the king into helping to get fraud charges against them dropped.

The Justice Ministry asked the chief prosecutor to begin a criminal investigation right away. The palace declined comment.

The king has no constitutional or legal powers to intervene in court cases, but a close friend who managed his personal matters until 1992 confirmed Friday he had been approached to help annul fraud charges against Javier De La Rosa, former Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) representative in Spain, and Mario Conde,

a once-enument banker now fallen from grace.

Mr. De La Rosa denied Diario 16's blackmail charge but said be had paid 12 billion peseras (\$100 milling) into Swiss accounts at the request of Manuel Prado Y Colon De Carvajal, a friend of the king, so that he could repay a 10-year-old loan used to help "some very important pecple".

Mr. Prade Y Colon denied in a radio interview baving ever received any money but said: "I began to receive sublimina! messages through third parties suggesting I take steps to have lawsuits in London and Madrid withdrawn."

Mr. Conde, sacked by regulators from his Banco Espanol De Credito (Banesto) two years agn after running up a balancesheet shortfall of 605 billion pesetas (\$4.6 billion), has already been accused by Mr. Gonzalez of being at the centre of a conspiracy involving stolen secret military files.

According to opposition parties, the files, some already leaked and printed in the local press, prove that Mr. Gonzalez's 13-year-old government engineered a campaign of molence against Basque ETA separatists in the 1980s. Mr. Gonzalez has denied he authorised the "dirty war."

Mr. Conde denied Friday any attempts at royal blackmail and said: "It is flatly,

totally and absolutely false that I had anything to do. directly or indirectly, with that alleged blackmail (of the king)."

The Socialist Party accused Mr. Conde and Mr. De La Rosa of trying to bring the state to its knees".

lts parliamentary leader, Joaquin Almunia, implored other parties: "We must all leave the crown out of our

arguments." Diario 16 said Mr. De La Rosa gave lavish gifts to the king up to May 1992 when he had to quit as KIO representative in Spain. He now faces KIO lawsuits in Madrid and London alleging be and other former KIO executives made off

The KIO, which claims its \$5 billion investment in Spain was squandered, filed a criminal lawsuit in Madrid in January 1993 and subsequently in London. Toe Madrid case has bogged down.

with Kuwairi funds.

But a London court last month required Mr. De La Rosa to explain 55 billion pesetas (\$440 million) in missing KIO funds. He refused, saying the matter fell under Spanish jurisdicnon.

Mr. De La Rosa and Mr. Conde rose to wealth and fame in the 1980s when quick fortunes were to be made in Spain's economic

200 feared drowned in Bangladesh storm

COX'S BAZAR, Bangla- said. desh (R) - Nearly 200 Bangladeshi fishermen were missing in the Bay of Bengal after a storm lashed the coast and offsbore islands, fishing community leaders said Saturday.

"Six trawlers with 96 crewmen have been missing at the sea and it's feared they have drowned," Ekramul Hussain Chowdhury, leader of the Cox's Bazar mechanised fishing bosts owners association

Other community leaders said another 100 fishermen on 15 trawlers remained unaccounted for in the coastal district of Barguna after the storms, which lashed the coast and offshore islands late Thursday.

Mr. Chowdhury said the sea was rough and heavy rain was still battering the coastline although the storm swept past Bangladesh early Friday.

island of Maheshkhali Friday when his house collapsed because of heavy rain, police told reporters.

The storm, generating winds of up to 80 kph (50 mph), flattened bundreds of thatched homes and triggered a five-feet high tidal surge that inundated low areas, sending salt water into crop fields. An estimate of the losses has not been One man was killed on the made, officials said Friday.

Russian troops came under fire 40 times during means? A similar declarafighting, including some "It is possible to end the 2.000 Russian servicemen. uon could then be signed by criminal investigation into the past 24 hours, more than twice as many as the day before, the Interfax News Mr. Khasbulatov, wbo Mr. Dudayev. He has bardly the rival sides." committed more crimes Mr. Yeltsin, recovering in enjoys significant popular support in his native hospital from a mild heart than those who introduced Agency quoted the Russian attack, met Defence Minister Pavel Grachev Cbechenya, bas been boldtroops into Chechenya," he .. military as saying. Seven ing talks with rival factions Russians were wounded. ne. snakes M Friday and called for prioriin the region, including rep-Mr. Khasbulatov said the Russian army positions ty to be given to a peaceful various parties in the conhave come under heavy fire resentatives of Mr. Dudayev who is now leading resisflict should grab the hull by for the past three days settlement in Chechenya. about 35 kilometres southcritical of peace efforts so out. far, saying they bave been A loose ceasefire has been Chechenya's status. west of Grozny, the agency used by rebets to regroup in place since June, but the Moscow insists it must stay reported.

A policeman stands guard behind a sandbags near a government building in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

Security has been tightened in Colombo amidst fears of reprisals By Tamil rebels following the resumption of the

Khasbulatov: Chechenya peace needs Yeltsin backing

and fresh fighting is

"The president referred to

the priority need to settle

this conflict by peaceful means," ITAR-TASS news

"But at the same time be

made clear that all the

shooting against our troops

sbould not go unnoticed," it

Mr. Yeltsin, who has

described Chechenya as

"the biggest disappointment

of my entire presidency",

ordered thousands of troops

into the southern region

almost a year ago to crusb

separatists loyal to Chechen

leader Dzhokhar Dudayev,

estimates about 26,000 peo-

ple have been killed in the

Russia's Interior Ministry

inevitable.

agency said.

casualty toll has been creep-

ing higher almost every day

in a situation described as

A military agreement, reached on July 31, called

on both sides to refrain from

use of force. But the accord

has been derailed by a bomb

attack in October that

almost killed top Russian

Colonel-General Anatoly

The agreement also envis-

aged rebel disarmament,

partial Russian troop with-

drawals and prisoner swaps.

ed Mr. Dudayev, wanted by

Russian authorities, be

brought into new negotia-

Mr. Khasbulatov, a hitter foe of Mr. Yeltsin, suggest-

commander

military

Romanov.

"neither war nor peace".

Federation, albeit with sub-

He said talks on the gener-

al principles of an agree-

ment between Russia and

Chechenya could be held in

A peace settlement could

be based on agreements that

would set four restrictions

on Chechen independence,

he said. These were recog-

nition of common citizen-

sbip, open frontiers, a single

monetary system and no

Meanwhile rehel Chechen

forces have stepped up

attacks on federal forces.

using mortars and beavy

weapons, the Russian mili-

Chernomyrdin told journal-

ists after telephone conver-

sations with Mr. Yeltsin.

"Every day his bealth is

picking up and so is his

work rate," ITAR-TASS

news agency quoted Mr.

Kremlin aides say Mr.

Yeltsin has been gradually

increasing his workload in

hospital following the heart

He is meeting ministers

one by one, but the only

officials who appear to have

daily access to the bospital

are Mr. Yeltsin's top aide,

Viktor Ilyushin, and his

chief security guard,

On Thursday he met

Foreign Minister Andrei

Alexander Korzhakov.

Chernomyrdin as saying.

tary said Friday.

army, he added,

stantial sovereignty.

Moscow.

Yeltsin controls Russia and army — Grachev

MOSCOW (R) - President Bosnia with U.S. Defence old Russian leader has Boris Yeltsin is firmly controlling Russia and its Brussels earlier this week. armed forces from his hospital bed, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Interfax News Agency

recommended that the defence and foreign ministries work out a common Russian position on a planned peacekeeping operation in Bosaia. .Gen: Grachev and Mr.

a chain of command that to serve in the planned Bosnian peacekeeping force NATO command.

Russian troops serving Europe, Agreement on political control of the force has still

to be reached.

Secretary William Perry in remained in charge of state

Mr. Yeltsin, it said, had

Perry agreed Wednesday on would allow Russian troops without coming under direct

The deal provides for under NATO's supreme allied commander in U.S. General George Joulwan, to take orders through a Russian general serving under him.

The Kremlin has been at

pains to show the 64-year- be

affairs since he was taken to hospital with a mild heart attack on Oct. 26. It was his

second heart attack in less than four months. Mr. Chemomyrdin told reporters after visiting Mr. Yeltsin last week that, as prime minister, be was coordinating the work of the

defence, security, foreign and interior ministries. The Kremlin quickly denied reporters' sugges-

tions that this meant Mr. Yelisin had handed over any of his powers. Gen. Grachev said it was wrong in say Mr. Yeltsin's illness was dangerous but

quoted doctors as saying the president should be given a long time to recuperate. Doctors have said Mr.

Yeltsin should stay under their close observation until the end of this month.

Kozyrev and vetoed a law under which Russia would have unilaterally lifted sanctions imposed by the United Nations against rump Yugoslavia.

The president will soon better,"

anack.

he told reporters.

Vietnamese newspapers

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Way to enlightened media

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech to senior officers in the army and security forces on Thursday continues to send shockwaves across the country. The ripple effects of the speech, though, were most noticeable by the mass media which have been especially targetted as having gone astray in their mission. The government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker is expected to respond to the new challenges posed by the King's address on several fronts, mainly the

Now there is talk about amending the Press and Publications Law on the assumption that its current provisions are responsible for most, if not all, that is wrong with journalists and other members of the mass media. The prescription for rectifying existing shortcomings in journalism appears to take the course of added punitive measures against violators of the current norms, including increased fines and prison terms for the people found guilty. Closing down publications which commit "professional sins" is projected to be more liberally pursued in the future to put an end to the current state of affairs.

We will be the first to admit all is not well with the mass media in the country, be it electronic or print. The ailment that we still detect in all forms and manifestations of mass media are often characteristic of the developing world where the struggle for a free press is normally an uphill task impeded by many factors ranging from lack of information to sub-standard professionalism to archaic laws. If we examine the tortuous path that journalism in Jordan has taken in recent years, we readily notice that it was shaped by periodic contradictory signals, be they of the legislative vintage or sheer policy considerations. It is fair to say then that some confusion, rudderless or fluctuating information policies reigned supreme in our midst for much too long. This state of affairs is by no means the sole fault of the people who take part in the profession. There are enough errors to pass around all parties connected with it directly or indirectly.

If we take, for example, the mistaken role of some Jordanian newspapers in promoting provincialism that found expression in the treatment of the now familiar passports subject, we have to admit that certain government policy directives or guidelines gave ammunition to this admittedly ill-conceived orientation. If our society is deeply divided on several fronts, this fragmentation was the making of players other than the press. We can go on and on attributing wrongdoings here and there but that was not the purpose or the goal of the Monarch's intervention on Thursday. We need to think forward and learn from the benefits of hindsight. The way to redress errors of judgement is to enter into a meaningful dialogue with the mass media on how to elevate its role into a higher plateau without the stick of government hanging over its head. It is not by stiffer or draconian legislation that journalism can improve itself. This can be done by an educational process founded on guidelines that are steady and coherent.

arabic press commentaries

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily Saturday lauded aid from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to the Arab citizens of Jerusalem as helping their steadfastness in the face of measures for the Judaisation of the city. Mahmoud Rimawi said that any help to the Arab people of the holy city to carry out housing projects is bound to consolidate their presence and their continued struggle for freedom. The Arab help for history is most needed at present

because Jewish serile in at said the writer, who noted that the postponement of negotiations over the future status of the city was being interpreted by Israel as a mandate to pursue a drive to expand Jewish settlements and carry out geographic and demographic changes in the city. Furthermore, the U.S. Congress' vote to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has strengthened Israel's hand and was instrumental in giving impetus to occupation authorities' plans to force the migration of Jerusalem's Arab citizens or compel them to acquire Israeli citizenship for the sake of remaining in their homeland, according to the writer. He said that Arah help for housing projects in East Jerusalem is a welcome step towards stemming the migration process and strengthening the Arab steadfastness in the Arab city.

A WRITER in Al Dustour expressed the view that the peace process will not end with the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Ali Safadi said the terrorist who killed Rabin had aimed at preventing the Israelis and the Palestinians from pursuing the course of peace and the return of Arab lands to their legitimate owners who would establish an independent state. But he said that the acting prime minister of Israel has made it clear that the tragic death of Rabin will not stop the government from pursuing

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

A summit for contacts, not contracts

THE MIDDLE East and North Africa (MENA) summit was not meant to produce only contracts, but also contacts. Such contacts may lead to contracts in the medium and long-term.

Nor was the summit a formal governmental meeting for negotiations with a view to reaching consensus on political or economic decisions. It was mainly a meeting for businessmen and investors searching for possible opportu-nities in the Middle East region. Consensus for them is unnecessary and meaningless.

Even if certain decisions were made, such decision would not be binding except for those who wish to adhere to them. Those who agreed to the decisions made in the conference have the liberty to neglect them later on. There is no machinery for the follow up and enforcement, except perhaps at the level of nation states, and to the extent deemed necessary in the best interest of the states concerned.

Therefore, the final declaration prepared in advance, ahead of the proceedings, is not the proper instrument to evaluate the results of the conference and determine the extent of its success or failure. If anything, it was the least important event.

The most important result of the conference is that the concerned participants of potential investors obtained the information they needed to make informed decisions regarding the suitability of the investment climate, the competence of the public administration and the openness of the national economy for international business.

Some analysts thought the importance of the conference stems from the fact that it ended with the formation of four regional institutions. The most important of which is the Economic Cooperation and Development Bank for the Middle East and North Africa, to be based in Cairo. The name of the bank is getting longer and longer with each summit while its paid up capital and its chances of seeing the light are getting slimmer and slimmer

The second institution is the Regional Council of Business Cooperation which is supposed to encourage cooperation between the private sectors of the countries concerned, but without resources and terms of reference,

Jordanian businessmen did not show any sign of enthusiasm towards this institution.

The third institution, which was given birth by the Amman declaration, is the Regional Council for Tourism and Travel which was charged with the responsibility of encouraging tourism to the region.

Finally. the declaration announced the formation of institutions already existing and functioning such as the General Secretariat of the economic summits, and the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) in Amman. The General Secretariat, based in Rabai, is hardly aware

of the arrangements worked out among the concerned parties, namely, America, the European Union, Japan, fsrael, and the host country. REDWG is an offshoot of the multilateral conference already existing and functioning in Amman. It was included in the declaration just to show that Jordan finally received one of the regional institutions. It is evident that all these regional institutions are hollow. They were born on paper without real contents. The idea is to make the final declaration sound important.

The language of the political part of the declaration was familiar to us. It adopted the usual Arabic expressions such as the participants expressed their sansfaction regarding the progress achieved on peace track (A) and expressed hope that steps will be completed on track (B) as soon as possible, the participants fully support the steps taken by the parties, etc.

The Amman declaration stressed the importance of following up and implementing decisions which were taken last year in Casablanca. The Cairo declaration next year will likewise stress the importance of following up and implementing the decisions that were taken in Amman. The Doha declaration of the year after will do the same. It is a copy of the language and culture of Arab League and

The conference brought together officials and businessmen. Officials created noises and produced little. Businessmen made contacts which may give the best of results. The conference was a success because the host country handled it efficiently, and the businessmen ceased the opportunity.



Bosnia peacekeeping force deal saves face for Russia

By Robert Burns The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The deal that U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and bis Russian counterpart worked out for Russian participation in an international peacekeeping force in Bosnia is a face-saving solution to a sticky problem.

The faces being saved are Russian. They had insisted, for domestic political reasons, that their troops in Bosnia not operate under direct NATO command even though everyone seemed to agree it could work only with NATO in

The solution: Satisfy the Americans by letting NATO give the orders, and keep the Russians happy by transmitting NATO's orders through a Russian general.

That extra layer in the military command structure gives Moscow the political distance from NATO it believes it needs but does not dilute the authority of NATO's top commander in Europe, U.S. Army Gen.

George Joulwan.
Put simply, the Russians
will be taking NATO orders
but not under NATO's letterhead.

The arrangement was announced Wednesday in Brussels, Belgium, after talks between Mr. Perry and Russia's Defence Minister, Gen. Pavel Grachev. They both said many details remain unresolved, and NATO as a whole must give its OK.

If completed, the deal

relieves U.S. anxieties as well. The Americans want Russians as peacekeepers because of Moscow's traditional close relations with the Bosnian Serbs and as a possible stepping stone to more solid ground in Russian-European security

It appears at first glance that the Brussels deal could work. Before it's put into practice, of course, a peace agreement is necessary among the warring parties.

Another obstacle yet to be overcome is Moscow's disagreement with Washington over what Organisation should exercise political control over the Bosnia peace force. NATO military opera-

tions normally are controlled by the alliance's political body, the North Atlantic Council, comprising repre-sentatives of all 16 member countries. Russia, not a. NATO member, is arguing for another organisation with broader representation to wield political control.

In many respects the problem of how Russian troops could work with NATO in Bosnia brings into play the major unresolved difficulties in postcold war Europe.

Among these is Russia's

hostility to NATO's expected eastward expansion to include such former Soviet allies as Poland. which the Russians see as a potential security threat, Bosnia may be a kind of proving ground for future cooperation between Moscow and NATO.

Mr. Grachev said Russia plans to contribute two or three battalions to the Bosoia peace force. He didn't in the NATO way of counting it would be 2,000 to 3,000 troops. The United States is expected to continbute about 20,000 troops in total expected NATO

force in the range of 60,000. As described by U.S. officials, the Brussels deal means Russian troops would operate with American forces. On-the-spot control of the Russian force will be in the hands of an American general, possibly Maj. Gen. William Nash. eommander of the 1st Armoured Division now training for Bosnia.

Mr. Joulwan, as the top NATO commander, will assign missions to the Russian troops, his orders transimitted through a Russian general acting as Mr. Joulwan's deputy. The Russian general, however, will have no veto power over Mr. Joulwan's decisions, U.S.

officials told reporters. The Russians also plan to send to Bosnia about 2,000 military specialists in such noncombat activities as bridge building and con-

LETTERS

'The foundation for peace'

To the Editor:

THE COURSE of the world's history has been plagued by the dominance of timely, stronger powers over weaker ones. The situation in this region seems relative to this cycle.

As an Irish person enjoying the freedom allowed to me to live and practice my beliefs in an Arab country, I would like to share with you a brief-history of my own nation's trials and tribulations during 700 years of British occupation.

During this era Irelands' population was halved through emigration but predominantly through starvation. We were forcibly stripped of our language, religion and culture. The list of suffering is endless. Ireland survived and emerged with the remanents of her culture, not as a complete geographical nation, but one we are still proud of

today. Seventy years on after achieving our independence, we have gained worldwide respect. We have learned to acknowledge and accept differences. enjoy life and live alongside our previous oppres-

sors.
It is irrelevant whether nations forgive and forget. The Japanese and the Americans, the French and the Germans have put the past behind them. They have surged forward rebuilding their countries for their own people.

I have little patience with the pessimism, the

begrudging and the "poor me syndrome." War is War. We have all suffered the consequences of it. The foundation for peace is accepting the differences. The people of this region must take a chance, as many nations before them have, and move forward regardless of the past.

Helen Kawar,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Taxis and regulation

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

ALMOST FIVE months ago, the Council of Ministers decided to encourage taxi drivers to trade in their old vehicles for newer ones. The government's plan calls upon the owners of old taxis to surrender vehicles that were purchased prior to 1991 to the government with no cash remuneration (rumour has it that the government wants to use some of the old cars for its own insitutions, sell some to the public, and turn totally unfit cars to scrap). The owners would then receive vouchers which entitle them to purchase new cars that are exempt from all custom duties and other related taxes. The new cars (under five years old) are to be used only as taxis and cannot be converted to private use at a later date unless their outstanding duries are fully paid. Thus, old taxis are done away with and Jordan's yellow fleet is given a face lift. This new law is valid for

five years during which time, the decision makers assume, taxi drivers will rush to the government offices to surrender their old vehicles for new ones. However, to the government's surprise, very few taxi drivers have bought into this scheme and the applications are very slim so far. In light of the following, we may agree that much more is needed than a no customs duty provision and that the present law is short on market relevancy. - Owners of very old. cars may take advantage of this law and see a way to purchase a new car at one third the normal cost. However, taxi drivers, in general, complain that they pay so much money in operat the end of the day. To buy a new vehicle, even with the tax exemption, would still require an outlay of between 5-10 thousand dinars. Unfortunately the legislation did not take into

The fact that they drive for very long hours, in poorly kept vehicles should have sent a clear signal to legislators that a law which involves such a large expenditure from an impoverished strata of the work force will neither find great appeal nor applitaxisility.

account the income and

wealth levels of taxi drivers.

Only if the old vehicle breaks down all the time and the expense of repairing it is equivalent to, or greater than, the cost of purchasing a new car. would be valid such a decision. Additionally, the new car is not an easy car to sell because it has to be taxed if the buyer's to use it for private purposes. - What about the com-

fort and safety of the driv-

er? This consideration is

not relevant here because

the driver may not be the

owner. Add to this that the

unemployment rate in Jordan is estimated 18.8 per cent. The owners have little or no incentive to worry about the drivers' safety because they can always find other drivers who are willing to rent their old beat up vehicles. The renters already pay between JD 15 10 JD 25 per day in rent for these vehicles. To make any money they are forced to drive recklessly for long hours (this contributes to motor vehicle accidents in Jordan). There is no ceiling in site on the amount that car owners can demand in rent from the drivers. The labour minister said, when addressing this issue, "Jordan is a free market society. in which prices are determined by the supply and demand" (Jordan Times Thursday-Friday, May 4-5, 1995). But, the government imposed freeze on the number of taxis has caused the price of the tag (the green taxi symbol on the side of a taxi identifying its affilia-tion) to use to over JD 12,000. This sum alone is the greatest singular lump sum expenditure by a prospective taxi-owner and it serves as a license fee.

- Why don't the customers refuse to get into ugly, beat-up taxi? Because they have 10. The government

has not allowed the number of licensed taxis or taxi stations to increase to meet the upsurge in population than occurred after the Gulf war in 1991. Owners of publicly registered cars. as a result of the government's supply limiting policy, have come to behave as government protected monopolies. This behaviour forces the driver and the customer to accept whatever comes their way

- Why can't drivers raise their fees to compensate for new car expenditures? Because the government controls these fees. The last rise in fare rates was in 1989. Even though the price of gasoline went up by 20 per cent, fares only increased by t0 per cent for the same period. Thus, they were unable to meet the rising costs of their inputs.

In 1994, according to the Public Security Department (PSD), 47.4 per cent out of the 14,520 registered small public cars were involved in accidents. In comparison, in that same year only 12 per cent of the 152,820 privately registered small cars were involved in accidents. Taxi drivers have a problem. Jordan has a problem and this law is not the solu-

"The fact that a person surrenders a car which has a market value to the government and receives no payment for the exchange must register as odd. Furthermore, this person must willingly commit himself to a big ticket purchase to replace what he already had given up. The rationality of such a decision must be subject to questioning."

What is the solution? The government should lower import taxes on all cars; license more taxi stations; and make fare rates compatible with the fluctuations in the rate of inflation. In other words, if customs on all cars fall to reasonable levels, more peole will purchase vehicles, and rely less on taxis. As the demand for taxi services decreases, dut o the availability of more substitutes, taxi owners will be forced to repair and maintain their cars or even replace them io order to generate more business by competing effectively for the scarce existing demand. Those who do not want fix their cars in order to attract the business of a discriminating consumer will simply drive themselves out of the market. Also, the licensing of more taxi stations will increase the supply taxis and further increase competition in the sector. With increased competition, taxi owners will have to improve their cars on their own, especially if the cost of a new car is not as high as it is

Realising that the above solution, though optimal, requires a lot of legislation on the part of the government, a simpler solution may suffice for the present. The government should allow taxi owners to sell the old vehicles and use the proceeds towards the purchase of new tax exempt vehicles. This is a very simple improvement on the existing law, and it achieves at no significant loss to the government, the government's declared goal of improving the state of the public vehicles in Jordan. Taxi drivers will see a chance to replace their old vehicles, and will view the tax waiver as a true government subsidy. Consumers will enjoy a better taxi service. The government will gain from the increased economic activity through income, corporate, sales. and other taxes.

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Iragi regin (Continued from page 12) Prepdent Sadeam - Laugime ladida wa danking in g

Gen. Kamel said Jorda was not awar of his defer or me to arrange for t common discuss it wi un kan comain, behare d parmy because this harr n retors and reputation end the King's consent a m fordan only aft iamen Amman and me: me with the Monarch. Ga Kamel said work es no regime should here accordance with despered plan, warm

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Mohammad Hammouri, a school teacher from Irbid Governorate, presented King Hussein with a decorated Hussein with a decorated copy of the Holy Koran in his crease to meet the population like own handwriting, a project on which he had worked for two and a half years.

Tens of thousands of people took part in Saturday's march through Amman's streets to mark the King's streets to mark the Kin

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are rates Wat t The march, which started n though the price went up his from the House of Parliament at Abdali in the prefares only to sence of the prime minister, ble to meet the of the sence of the prime minister, the committee members and ministers, headed for the Al Hashemieb Square in down-

0 registered sun; (Continued from page 1) s were involved. Arafat here on Sunday for In company, the first time since the mur-

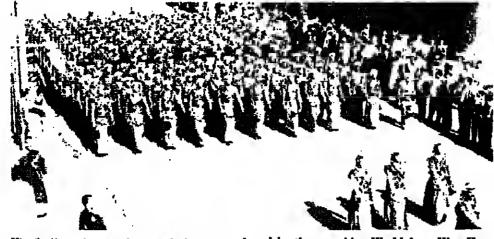
der of Mr. Rabin. Egyptian Foreign Minister gistered small de Amr Musa, meanwhile, told olved in accident a press conference that a four-way meeting between an has a plot. Mr. Peres, Mr. Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein was possible" in the near future.

The Egyptian news agency MENA said Saturday that the "Arafat-Peres talks will the "Aratat-reres takes the last two days," but did not specify if Mr. Mubarak would join them. a markei Mr. Peres assured Mr.

Arafat by telephone on Wednesday that the Israeli to the gor. ent and re troop redeployment would continue on schedule despite Mr. Rabin's assassination.

Mr. Arafat was also to chair a meeting of the PLO's Executive Committee in the Egyptian capital on Sunday to discuss the peace process in the light of Mr. Rabin's

Jordan celebrates King's birthday (Continued from page 1)



The Badia police march through the streets of celebrations marking His Majesty King Hus-Amman Saturday amid the start of national sein's 60th birthday (photo by Yousef Allan)

It also involved the Jordanian Armed Forces brass band, along with units representing the Armed Forces, and the Public Security and General Intelligence depart-

Various organisations provided decorated vehicles which drove along with the

march with posters on their and women sang national sides and portraits of the King while the streets were bedeeked with decorative signs and Jordanian flag.

Helieopters and fighter planes presented an aerial

for the economic summit at

At the Hashemieh Square and in the other squares along the march route, men

songs and presented dabkeh and other folklorie performances held near large tents pitched specifically for the occasion. The tents were deeorated with flags and King's portrait as well as posters expressing good wishes to the King and allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

Israel, PLO finalise details

murder. The PLO leadership will also examine a draft Palestinian election law, the committee secretary general. Jamal Al Surani, said.

The PNA meanwhile. announced a Nov. 15 holiday for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to mark the declaration of an independent state.

The self-rule authority, after a meeting in Gaza City, decided the date would be marked as a "national holiday," starting next Wednes-day, Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani told jour-

The Palestine National Council declared the state at a meeting in Algiers on Nov. 15, 1988.

The self-rule authority also decided to entrust Mr. Arafat with appointing a delegation to hold planned reconciliation talks with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) that the PLO wants to take place in Cairo.

Mr. Arafat gave his selfrule cabinet a report of talks Jan. 20 election.
"It is a national duty for all he held with Hamas officials in Amman while he was there

the end of October. "Hamas want a serious and complete dialogue, to reach an agreement with the PNA in all issues," Mr. Arafat told his ministers according to Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the au-

thority's general secretary. He did not identify the Hamas officials, but one of them was the group's spokes-man Mohammad Nazzal, according to other sources. Meanwhile, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza

eligible to participate in the first Palestinian general election will begin registering to vote on Sunday, a PLO official said. Hassan Abu Libdeh, head

of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), called on all Palestinians, including residents of Arab East Jerusalem, to register at

the some 1,700 polling stations in order to vote in the

eitizens to take part in elec-tinns, and to start by registering at polling stations as of tomorrow," Mr. Abu Libdeb

Posters urging citizens to vote in the election for president and executive and legislative councils decorated walls of the PCBS building.

Palestinians over 18 years of age are eligible to vote. Mr. Abu Libdeh told a news conference that officials would register Palestinians in 16 different polling districts in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip.

He said a recent census

He department conducted by his department put the population of the West Bank — including East Jerusalem — and the Gaza Strip at 2.5 million people. He expected the number of eligible voters to reach 1.2

Curbs on 'yellow press' should be democratic – experts

(Continued from page 1) "If we address these two concerns, we will solve a major part of the problem,' he said.

But both Mr. Sharif and Mr. Qudah insist that the government should not be empowered with the right to close down newspapers, saying any such right should only be given to the judici-

"We do not want to give any government the ability to use the law for political reasons against newspapers that might differ with it," said Mr. Qudah.

"What is there to guarantee that the executive authority will not misuse the law "if it is given the right to close down newspapers?" said Mr. Sharif.

Observers and analysts say that legislative changes can help put an end to excesses by the "yellow press." But the officialdom and the journalistic body

need to open a debate on the role of the press in the Kingdom, especially that the official media and the pro-establishment press were also criticised by the

King in his speech. Members of the mainstream press say that they as well as the official media have always been suppottive of the state and are at loss as to where they have failed to serve its policies.

"What is needed is a debate on the role of the press and what is expected from it," one former official said.

Mt. Sharif said that the performance of the official media should be assessed and the areas of failure must be identified in order to redress them.

In a democracy, said one official, the role of the press is to act as a watehdog, monitoring the policies of the government and pinpointing wrogndoings. But this is done in a professional way where information is verified and accuracy is held sacred.

In Third World countries, however, the press is "a mobilisation press" which works to rally the people around the policies of the state and highlighting its achievements, said Mr.

Jordan, observers say, is at a transitional period when many issues are surrounded by vagueness and the role of the press has yet to be agreed on. Both the press and the government have not yet suitably adapted to the new conditions, said one observet, adding that the press needs to invest more in training journalists and the government has to understand better how to use the press to

its advantage. As the press moves towards playing the role of its counterparts in established democracies, the govern-

the slain extremist rabbi on

the same day as Mr. Rabin's

in defiance of a police ban.

Mr. Sarid, turning on the

discredited far-right, said the

interior and immigration

ministries should draw up a blacklist of "undesirable"

he wants changed, allows any

Jew from around the world to

adopt Israeli nationality.

The "law of return," which

Interior Minister Ehud

Barak, meanwhile, has

ordered his department to scrutinise "immigration

candidates to try to prevent the arrival of extremists,"

most of whom come from the

The main Romanian

Saturday edition a group

opposition newspaper said in

of Palestinians planned to assassinate Mr. Rabin during

trip to Romania in 1979.

Romania Libera said the

Israeli leader was to have

been killed during a trip to

Jewish extremists.

United States.

Under The Patronage Of

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al-Hussein

Her Highness Princess Rania Al- Abdullah

Embassy of Pakistan - Amman

ment has to modernise its approach to journalists.

Mr. Qudah said that it was still difficult for journalists to obtain information from government sources, and a former government official said the government had to work more on winning the media's support for its poli-

One observer pointed to how Western governments try to generate support for their policies through talking to the people through the press, holding press conferences, meeting with iournalists to convince them of the viability of their policies and often leaking information through the press to sound out public opinion.

The government bere must allow journalists more access to information andwork harder on winning the media's support for its poli-cies, said one observer.

the erstwhile Soviet bloc state in August 1979 by a Palesti-Supporters of Meir nian group, but the attack was foiled after security Kahane, killed five years ago in New York, plan to go ahead with their own memoforces were alerted about the rial service in Jerusalem for

> Mr. Rabin had travelled to Romania in 1979 on the invitation of dictator Nicolae Ceauseseu, whose regime maintained good relations with both Israel and the

Romania Libera said the attack was due to have been carried out at Neptun on the Black Sea coast, where it said Ceausescu had organised a secret meeting between Mr. Rabin and a Palestinian de-

However, the Palestinian delegation, disguised as a tourist group, were over-heard by their tour guide, Viorel Florescu, discussing a plan to assassinate Mr.

The guide immediately informed the Romanian tourism office, and Mr. Rabin's itinerary was changed. The tour guide was found dead the next day, the newspaper

Sunday evening at Kings of

'Suspects targeted Arabs'

(Continued from page 1)

attend a memorial rally on Israel Square, to be renamed Yitzhak Rabin Square. The city of Tel Aviv, organising the assembly, said bis widow Leah will speak at the site.

On Friday, a Tel Aviv court remanded Michael Epstein, 23, a friend of Amir, in eustody for five days on suspicion of "conspiracy to commit a felony.'

Police said Épstein, like the other suspects, knew of Amir's plans but did nothing to stop him. Epstein was also accused of organising with others to attack Arabs.

Holding open the possibility of more arrests, Mr. Shahal said the group had stockpiled weapons and explosives - either stolen or homemade - to attack Arabs and the prime minister.

"Yigal Amir was the central figure in planning the murdet (of Rabin). He had two active accomplices: his brother Hagai Amir and Dror Adani," Mr. Shahal

Hagai Amir, 27, was arrested on Saturday on suspicion he made at least one of the hollow-nose bullets used to kill Mr. Rabin. Police said they found an arsenal of weapons and explosives at the Amir family home in the north Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya. Adani, 27, was remanded on Thursday for 15 days

while police prepare charges against him. His mother said he was blameless. Environment Minister

Yossi Sarid, meanwhile, called for amendments to the "law of return" to keep out Jewish extremists considered undesirable in Israel. On a sunny Sabbath in Jerusalem, people of all ages

and from all walks of life added to the mountain of flowers on top of Mr. Rabin's grave and the candles circling Most of them came from Tel Aviv, taking advantage of their day off in an almosi

pared to the grief and shock eatliet in the week. Tradesmen did brisk business selling bagels and drinks

carnival atmosphere, com-

outside the cemetery.

Taxi drivers complained of traffic jams and police closed off roads near Mount Herzl.

The mourning period was to end on Saturday night, according to Jewish tradition. Leah Rabin, President Ezer Weizman, government ministers and the army's top brass are to attend a commemoration service at his grave in West Jerusalem on

Save water... every drop

defector Iraqi regime on way out

(Continued from page 12)

place win President Saddam's daugther ready had Raghda was thinking to go

Gen. Kamel said Jordan up. The nality of tion until his arrival in the country. "It was impossible for me to arrange for the be subject defection or discuss it with any Arab country before departing because this harms my history and reputation," he said, stressing that he received the King's consent to stay in Jordan only after axes on all or arriving in Amman and meet-

tore taxi stabut ing with the Monarch. e fare rates cor-Gen. Kamel said work to ith the fluctuator oust the regime should be te of inflation. I done in accordance with a rds, if customs or well-prepared plan, warning fall to reasonale that any swift action to do so nore peole *! would lead to an explosion vehicles, and rei and a civil war in Iraq. He

emphasised that he was working patiently to achieve that goal because his movement was in need for estab-lisbing relations with other

parties within iraq, including tribal forces and the army, and said he was in need of all the support he can get, in-eluding foreign powers and the persons in Iraq he did not get in touch with since bis defection. He described the recent

refetendum on the regime in Baghdad as unsuccessful and unconstitutional and said the Iraqi leadesbip should be elected by the public. "What happened is that the Revolutionary Command Council, which is illegal and unconstitutional, nominated its leadership... how can there be a revolution for 27 years the revolutionary council should

"What happened is that the (Baath) Party forced the people not to tell the truth. It distributed its officials in all electoral constituencies and any 'no' to the president would have made the official in charge of that area re-sponsible. All security, military and party aparata wete mobilised to serve that pur-

"If we presume that they have changed their revolu-tionary style to a constitutional one, why did they keep the revolution?"

"The results of the referendum were shameful. It might have sounded true were they 70 or 75 per cent in support of the regime, but to have it 100 per cent is irrational... how can this happen while there are five million Iraqis scattered around the world, not bave existed only for one or

to mention the Iraqi Kurds in the north?"

Gen. Kamel said those thinking of dividing Iraq were losers. He said the Americans, the international community and the Arabs have a lot to lose in case Iraq was

Gen. Kamel said he intended to visit Syria and other Arab countries to brief Arab leaders on the situation in Iraq and seek their support, but said he will not allow any country to direct

his moves. He denied that he took with him millions of dollars from Iraq and said Iraqi officials gave conflicting figures on the alleged amounts, saying some said \$8.17 million and others \$35 million, and stressed that these conflicting figures prove that the allegations are baseless.

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Arabs press on with ambitious trade project

ficits, dehts and slow growth

encouraging members to

push ahead with reforms and

switch to market economy

after decades of state control.

trade data network, which

will eventually be linked to

all 22 members of the Arab

League, would use advanced

technology to ensure access

to regional and international

It will also distribute in-

formation to member states

on each market in the region

as well as products, demand,

supply and the economy of

help memhers identify export

markets and consequently

boost inter-Arab trade," the

Trade among Arah states has remained below 10 per

Political rifts are also to

Arah states to remove the

customs harriers in line with a

free trade signed by regional

countries three decades ago.

Arab trade, Other problems

need to be addressed, espe-

cially the high customs duties

imposed by member states.'

AMF figures showed ex-

ports among Arab countries

stood at around \$12.88 billion

in 1993, accounting for nearly

nine per cent of their total exports of \$142.3 billion. In-

ternal imports of \$11. I billion

formed nearly 8.7 per cent of

the total imports of \$126.6

EUstrikes key accord with Morocco

fishing accord that sets out

catch quotas for Spanish and

Portuguese trawlers in

with Raoat got under way in February 1994 and covered

political dialogue, the gra-

dual establishment of a free-

trade zone and cooperation

in financial, social, scientific

Further talks on the finan-

and cultural domains.

egotiations on the deal

led next week along with a cial chapter of the agreement

one expert said.

There is no doubt this will

member states.

report said.

markets.

The AMF report said the

ABU DHABI (AFP) -Arab states have launched the final state of an amhitious rates. The drive focuses on project to set up a network to activate flagging trade among them in long-standing plans to merge their economies. operators said Friday.

The first two phases of the Abu Dhahi-based computerised data network, the first in the Arab World, have been completed while the third would be finished early next year, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial body, is setting up the \$3 million network with the help of the United Nations Development Programme and the Geneva-based Global Trade Centre.

The third and last stage has been launched and the network would be completed in early 1996," the AMF said in its monthly report.

cent of their total trade over The network, which has the past two decades due to customs barriers, lack of already ocen connected to financing of exports, and several Arab states, is part of problems associated with a \$500 million fund created storage and communication. by the Abu Dhabi-hased AMF around four years ago to finance inter-Arab trade. blame as they are the main reason for rejuctance hy most

The fund has provided more than \$400 million in soft credits to commercial exchanges within the Arab region but officials have complained the figure lagged far behind the fund's capacity of \$1 billion a year.

They attributed this to the limited industrial base in the Arab World, similarity in products and preference of the superior foreign items.

But the officials hope financing of local exports would encourage Arah producers to upgrade the quality of their products and face competition.

The fund is also part of an AMF drive to help member state tackle their economic

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) and

Morocco Friday concluded a

far-reaching association

partnership between Europe

The partnership is sche-

duled to be launched at a

Euro-Mediterranean confer-

ence in Barcelona Nov. 27

The specific agreement

with Morocco will be initial-

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and North Africa.

accord that should prove to Moroccan waters.

Lebanon sets out demands for EU partnership accord

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon has told the European Union (EU1 is will need substantial aid to offset the revenue losses and increased competinon that it will experience as a result of signing a free trade agreement with Brussels.

Chief Lebanese negotiator Zager Al Hassan, the secretary general of the foreign ministry, made the comments in a speech in Brussels Thursday at talks on a comprehensive "partnership agreement between Lebanon and the

The Beirut Frenchlanguage daily L'Orient-Le Jour reported extracts of his comments in its Friday edi-

Putting in place a free exchange zone between the union and Lebanon will immediately translate for us into an important loss of fiscal revenues, and so into an increase of the budget deficit," Mr. Hassan told the EU negotiators at the start of

"The signature of a free exchange agreement would risk putting most of our sec-

tors in difficulties." he said. "In short, this accord would impose certain sacrifices onus for which there must in-

evitably he some compensa-

The proposed EU-Lebanese partnership pact. part of a series Brussels is negotiating with Middle Eastern countries, will replace a 1977 protocol that covered economic, trade, cultural, tourist, political, security and development issues.

Lebanon's imports outstrip exports by a ratio of about 10 to one and a substantial proportion of the cash-strapped government's revenues comfrom customs duties.

Mr. Hassan said cutting customs tariffs would lead to loss of revenues and necessitate EU help to adapt the Lebanese taxation system to increase internal revenues and also to help Lebanese enterprisers adjust to the new

He said Beirut could not use all the funds made available to it by the EU during its 1975-90 civil war but it was now urgent to increase the level of EU aid.

World Bank warns on U.S. aid threat for poorest states

PARIS (AFP) — The World Bank warned Friday that the world's poorest countries. mostly in Africa, would face dramatic consequences if the United States halves its contribution to the International Development Association

1DA is the World Bank's affiliate for interest-free longterm lending to countries that had an average per capita annual income of barely \$400 last vear.

Its future funding is now in the balance hecause the Republican-diminated U.S. Congress proposes to roughly halve U.S. contributions to IDA for the current financial

The World Bank fcars this could induce other donors to invoke the existing burden sharing and proportionally cut their own commitments to IDA's 11th replenishment (IDA-11), for the three years starting next July.

A scenario worked out hy the hank's economists, shows a possible 50 per cent reduction in funds available for 1DA lending over this period could sharply cut IDA aid to

over 30 African countries. including 14 rated as severely indebted.

It would also severely affect the outlook in such countries as Vietnam, one of IDA's five poorest clients. and Armenia, where IDA has become a key financing partner in the trunsition to market economy.

"In Cameroun, Malawi and Senegal, major cuts would undermine recent reform gains," the hank said. 'ln Eritrea. Angola and Ethiopia, they would virtually halt post-war reconstruction, and in Zamhia and Cote d'Ivoire they would make deht service virtually unhear-

growth prospects would "diminish greatly" in all these countries. IDA could meet a shortfall either hy reducing the size of credits or by focussing its aid on better performing coun-

able." it added, noting that

But the bank said 1DA. which has provided emergency aid to such countries as Rwanda and Haiti, would clearly have difficulty offering similar assistance to Bosnia, or Angola and Liberia, now emerging from civil

If IDA were forced to seriously curtail its lending. new money would not be available to help debt-ridden African countries finance economic adjustment imposed by their creditors and assist their "exit from overindchtedness." a top World Bank official said.

Debt was "the major obstacle to investment" in Africa's poor nations and must he addressed." World Bank Vice President Edward Kim Jaycox told a group of reporters here Friday.

He said IDA was "irreplaceable" because no other aid authority would have the security to "go into areas where IDA is now" working. Mr. Jaycox said he had sought to impress on U.S.

politicians that for every SI contributed by the U.S., IDA as a whole was mobilising \$5. hringing another \$10 from other sources. Senior finance officials

from over 30 donor countries supporting IDA are 10 meet in Luxembourg next Friday and Saturday for their fifth round of talks so far this year on the IDA-11 replenishdeals needed

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The World Bank's IDA-11 spending target is about 15.3 hillion SDR (\$23.7 hillion). against 13 billion .SDR (\$18

billion) under IDA-IO. This would require a U.S. contribution of just under \$1.0 hillion a year, down from \$1.25 hillion under IDA-10. But Congress has proposed only \$700 million fro the current year.
The IDA "deputies" aim

for a final deal by year-end. But Joseph Stiglitz. President Bill Clinton's chief economic adviser, told AFP here this week he thought a breakthrough in the budget stalemate between the U.S. administration and Congress was unlikely before Christmas.

He recalled that Mr. Clinton, addressing the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meeting last month. "strongly and clearly" committed the U.S. to support IDA fully.

But Mr. Stigli12 said he would not try to guess what

Vatican expects surplus, says image problem over

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican's top financial officer said Friday he believed the "Securing financing and identifying export markets Holy See had overcome "the image problem" caused by remove one problem in interthe Banco Amhrosiano affair of the 1980s and people were now contributing more generously

Cardinal Edmund Szoka told a news conference the Holy See forecast a small hudget surplus in 1996, its fourth in a row.

The Holy See posted its first budget surplus in 1993, after 22 years of deficits that forced Pope John Paul to divert funds earmarked for world charities in order to

are to start next week in

Rabat. Bot analysts bere pre-

dict that Morocco will be able to count on EU aid in the

amount of \$455 million dur-

ing the first three years of the

life of the association accord.

Morocco's share of an overall figure of \$6.09 billion the

European Union foresees as

needed to finance Euro-

Mediterranean cooperation

from 1995 to 1999.

The sum represents

Cardinal Szoka also said

that the Holy See has considered seeking corporate or other types of sponsorship for Vatican Radio - one of its biggest cost hurdens - but that the worldwide nature of the shortwave boradeasts would make it difficult.

Cardinal Szoka, president of the watchdog Prefecture for Economic Affairs, said the Holy See expected a 1996 surplus of about \$329,000 after expenses of about \$176.7 million and income of about \$177 million.

He said the Vatican was also expecting to post a small surplus for 1995, but gave no figures. The deficit hit a peak of \$87.5 million in 1991.

THE BETTER HALF

The cardinal, the former archbishop of Detroit, said it was the first time the Holy See was able to forecast a surplus in its consolidated projected budgets for the fol-

lowing year.
"I think that certainly the Holy See suffered from a had image for a while," Cardinal Szoka said in response to a question. "I don't think justifiably, but it was there and there was a lot of confusion."

The Vatican Bank, known as the Institute for Works of Religion (IOR), was thrust into the world financial spotlight in 1982 over its links to the failed Banco Amhrosiano, which collapsed that year in Italy's worst private banking failure.

By Glasbergen

The IOR, which manages money for religious orders and whose activities do not figure in the Holy See's budget, had a small holding in the Ambrosiano. Investigators held it at least partly responsible for the crash. The Vatican denied wrongdoing but paid creditors \$250 million as a "goodwill gesture"

at the time 'The Holy See's image suffered. It appeared as though we were not very good admi-

JUMBILE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUJED

NURSP

GORCED

TRAUGI

nistrators, that we were not very good managers." Cardinal Szoka said.

Following the Ambrosiano affair contributions from the faithful and organisations fell but in past years the Holy See has become much more open ahout its finances, issuing regular reports audited by outside companies.

After the Amhrosiano affair the Pope set up a com-mittee of 15 cardinals from around to world to oversee

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginon

Harry Just loves to

HOW HE SPENT HIS LEISURE TIME

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-

gested by the above carloon.

'Our reports have complete transparency, Cardinal Szoka said. "We are not trying to hide anything. That image has, I think, helped contributions.

The Holy See's budget covers the Catholic Church's central administration and its diplomatic missions as well as Vatican Radio, the newspaper L'Osservatore Romano and the Vatican's printing and publishing houses.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, **NOVEMBER 12, 1995**

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out to the sources of wisdom and understanding which most appeal to you and then in the evening today handle family matters well.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think over how to become more successful in the future during the morning today. In the afternoon, study periodicals.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go over mental affairs with others during the daytime today and tonight study into money matters. Enjoy good friends during the day. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Meditation can reveal what can be of greatest benefit to you in the days anead. Later, this evening

you can make ideal plans. LEO:(July 22 to August 21) This is a fine Sunday to study just how to gain your finest objectives today, then do the activities necessary for such and start the ball rolling nice-

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now understand just bow to make your vocational matters work much better today and to your big advantage for suc-

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you think more logical today, you will know how to gain your greatest aspirations. Be understanding of others' predicaments.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talk over with your mate just how you can improve the relationship in the morning today, then you can make new contacts of worth.

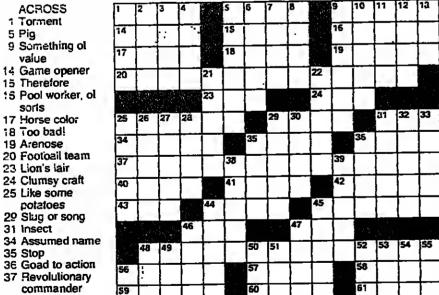
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to get outside duties handled well and also gain prestige. Talk matters over with allies and come to a meeting of minds.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Handle whatever will please your best friends today and make them happy, then later tonight have wise discussions with alltes.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get out with congenial friends and loved ones and have a good time today and then you can handle little dunes at home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Talk over with your family this morning how best to improve conditions there, then later enjoy some hohby in the evening.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye



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THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

31 Calendar word

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ms makers flock back to Arab Gulf

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They want to buy antiadiog arms makers are submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft and warships, missile systems, minehunter vessels, helicopters, frigates, main batrle tanks (MBT), radar systems and a variety of other hardware.

At a defence show in Abu Dhabi in March, mainly Brit-ish, French and U.S. makers of land- and sea-based military hardware were locked in comperition for luerarive Arab Gulf contracts. Some walked away with

multi-million dollar deals, including a \$235 million UAE order for ASW helicopters from Eurocopter, a Franco-German joint venture.

The buzzword in the region in recent months has been ASW technology, needed to monitor movements of two kilo-class Russian submarines deployed by the Gulf's non-Arab power Iran.

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French Franc	5.75	5.75	5.03	5.50
Japanese Yen	0.18	0.15	0.18	0.25
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Kodak is changing the picture at Gitex '95

"KODAK IS Changing the Picture" is theme for Kodak's stand at Girex '95. At the booth Kodak will showcase a full range of products designed to provide complete imaging solutions that meet and exceed customers imaging requirements. As pioneers in conventional photography and, as acknowledged world leaders in images, Kodak has once again troken new ground in digital photography with the development of multiple Digital Camera devices. Kodak will focus on the applications of digital technology in the pre-press and publishing environments. Demonstrations will be given on-stand to illustrate how Kodak products Work in these areas. Within this area of application, Kodak offers the broadest and most complementary portfolio of imaging products and services available in the market today. The product line-up includes photo CD, printers, film scanners, digital camera systems, A.V projectors, CD writers, CD jukebox and writable CD media.



Some Western officials expect the UAE to announce at the show an order for fixedwing ASW aircraft - a deal contested by 24 airframe makers and systems integra-

The deal could be worth

between \$150-\$500 million, depending on the number to be ordered and specification. they said.

Russian, British, French and U.S. firms are waiting for at least an indication from the UAE at the five-day show on

range strike aircraft.

It could be the 20th century's last big military aircraft order, though possibly worth less than Riyadh's \$9 billion order for 72 F-15s from McDonnell Douglas Corp.

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#### Rifai to head Investment Promotion Department

\$\$ TALEB Al Rifai will head the Investment Promotion Department, succeeding Asem Hindawi, according to a cabinet decision. The cabinet has decided to accept Mr. Hindawi's request to retire. Informed sources said Fayez Suheimat, director-general of the Industrial Estate Corporation, bas submitted his resignation and that Mr. Hindawi will replace him. Dr. Suheimat, the sources say, will take the post of general manager of the newly established National Petroleum Com- ** ZIAD FARIZ, Al Hikmah Investment pany (Al Dustour).

#### Association of engineers finds jobs for unemployed

**★★ THE ASSOCIATION** of engineers succeeded in finding employment to 52 engineers last month in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The jobs were for civil, architect, mechanical, electrical and chemical engineers. The association, which had writen to thousands of companies in the Arab Gulf states since early October 1995, expects to find a similar number of jobs this month roo. According to informed sources, unemployment among eogineers is about three per cent of a total of 35,000 engineers. A preliminary agreement with a Malaysian delegation that recently visited the association, has opened the opportunity to employ about 4, 000 Jordanian engineers at the Malaysian private sector. Officials from the association will be visiting Malaysia in due course to specify the specialties needed for the Malaysian market (Al Aswag).

## 'Burnt market' nearly

to meet their obligations while other 26 all banking operations (Al Dustour).

traders fled the country. Mr. Khalili said the association held several meetings with traders to contain the problem and played a mediation role to reschedule debts and ensure that rights of all parties were protected. The association was set up only nine months ago and currently enlist 400 members out of a total 9,700 traders in electrical and electronic appliances (Al Aswaq)

#### Board of directors formed for Export and Finance Bank

Company, Mohammad Saleh Al Horani, the Arab Potash Company, the Jordanian Investment Company for Integrated Industries, Ali Khaldoun Al Hosari, Al Sbarif Shaker Ben Zeid, the Jordan Loan Guarantee Corpora tion, Fayez Suheimat, Henry Azzam, Basem Khalil Al Salem and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company were chosen by acclamation as the first board of directors of the newly-established Export and Finance Bank. Al Hikman is represented by Said Darwazeh and the Jordanian Investment by Elia Nuqul. After the general assembly meeting, the board of directors held a meeting and elected Dr. Fariz as chairman and Mr. Hosari as vice chairman. The board appointed Adnan Al Sallakh as general manager. Mr. Sallakh has been the general manager of Grindlays ANZ Bank in Jordan until last year when he was retired (Al Ra'i).

#### Agricultural Credit Corporation extends JD 204 million credits since establishment

settle the crisis that erupted months ago from The remaining 20 per cent, or JD 34 million, the emergence of the "burnt market." By were given to finance purchases of required buying products at long-term instalments and production material needed for investment immediately selling them at a loss only to raise projects. Nearly 114,000 farmers benefitted of badly-needed cash, the market sank in a these financing services. The ACC also contriturmoil where many profiteers became in- buted 65 per ceot of the private sector's volved in dumping products and writing cheinvestments in the agricultural field. The
ques that later bouoced. The association corporation's head said the ACC's future set
head, Hani Al Khalili, said the situation up will be to become an agricultural bank became so bad that some traders were unable enjoying total independence and conducting

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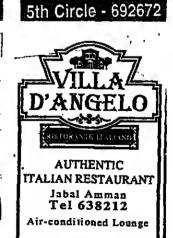
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Gabriela Sabatini

## Martinez, Sabatini upșet in Philadelphia quarter finals

PHILADELPHIA (R) -Expected form took the night off at the \$800,000 Advanta Championships on Friday when second seed Conchita Martinez and fourth seed Gahriela Sahatini became quartertfinal upset victims.

Martinez, who won this tournament in 1993, was hounced by unseeded American Lori McNeil 6-7 6-3 6-2. while seventh seed and defending champion Anke Hu-ber upended Sabatini 7-5 6-2. In another quarter-final.

veleran American Zina Garrison-Jackson ended Romanian Irina Spirlea's chances of qualifying for next week's WTA Tour championships with a 6-1 5-7 6-4 victory.

Spirlea, who had to reach the final here to claim the 16th berth in the 16-player season finale, was up a break at 3-1 in the third set before the crafty texan mounted a rally, winning the final four

Friday's result left top seed Steffi Graf. who won her quarter-final Thursday, and fellow German Huber as the only seeds to reach the final

The semifinals pit Graf against Garrison, while Huher takes on McNeil, who like Garrison grow up playing in the public parks of Hous-

The 63rd-ranked McNeil mixed in frequent drop shots and net approaches to frus-Irate Martinez, whom she had defeated in their only previous indoor encounter at the 1992 Virginia Slims Championships.

Sabatini managed to save three match points before succumbing on the fourth when Huber belted a crosscourt backhand that landed on the line.

"I wasn't moving too well from side to side," admitted Sahatini. "I was missing too many returns, and I prohably had to mix my game up a little more.

# Graf set to end year of triumph and turmoil on up note

NEW YORK (R) — Steffi Graf is looking to put a fitting finishing touch on a year of professional triumph and personal turmoil by claiming the season-ending WTA Tour

The world number one says she is looking forward to the intense competition at the 16-player season finale, which begins Monday in New York, to take her mind off the much publicised tax problems that have landed her father

That competition became a bit less daunting with the news that three-time champion Monica Seles had pulled out of the tournament with a knee injury.

Graf, winner of the most prestigious non-Grand Stam title on the women's calender in 1987, 1989 and 1993, had cited Seles as her greatest obstacle to claiming a fourth title at Madison Square Garden.

Still, she seemed disappointed that her great rival would

"Everybody was excited about having her play in the last tournament ... it's a big loss." Graf said after a quarter-final victory in Philadelphia. "When you play a match with Monica, it motivates you and drives you. I like those kind.

The German star, despite being hampered by injuries and personal distractions for much of the year, takes a remarkable 1995 record into the championships. Prior to this week's final rune-up in Philadelphia. Graf had compiled a 40-2 match record with seven titles, including the French Open. Wimbledon and a memorable

U.S. Open tnumph over Seles.

Long known as the Virginia Slims Championships, the season finale has a new name this year. The format, however, is the same — the year's top 16 performers battling in a single elimination competition that amounts to the second week of a Grand Slam without the drudgery of the first three rounds.

While Seles's withdrawal surely robs the championships of some of its luster, it should make South African Amanda Coetzer plenty happy. Had Seles used an unprecedented wild card invitation, Coetzer, who qualified 16th on points earned all season, would have been pushed out of the

Seles's absence not only stands to make life easier for Graf if she reaches the best-of-five set final, but it turns the bostom half of the draw into a wide open scramble. Spain's Conchira Martinez becomes second seed in the weakened half of the draw. But she harbours no illusions of an easy road to the final.

Every match is going to be tough for everybody," said the 1994 Wimbledon champion, who opens against Croatian teenager Iva Majoli. "Because I'm number two seed with Seles out doesn't mean much because you're in a draw where you have the 16 best players in the world." Those in Martinez's path to the final include fourth-

seeded Australian Open champion Mary Picrce and sixth seed Kimiko Date of Japan, both semifinalists last year. The top half features Graf, third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who was runner-up in three Grand Slams this year and losing finalist to Graf in 1993, and defending champion

The popular Argentine, who also won the season finale in 1988, seems to play her best tennis in New York.
"The championships are always special for me," she

Last year. Sabatini spoiled Martina Navratilova's farewell with an emotional first-round victory and then ended a bewildering 42-tournament title drought with a straight sets win over American Lindsay Davenport in the

This time around, a more confident Sabarini drew Davenport in the opening round.
"The last few months I've been playing great tennis."

Sabatini said. "If I have to compare last year going into this. I'm at a much better level than I was last year.

Nineteen-year-old American Chanda Rubin will be the onty debutante as everyone else in the elite field has been

to the season-ending dance before.

The rest of the east is seventh seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgana, eighth-seed American Mary Joe Fernandez, Anke Huber of Germany. Czech veteran Jana Novolna. Natasha Zvereva of Belarus and Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands.

## **SPORTS IN BRIEF**

#### Indurain to miss Tour of Italy

announced on Friday. The decision is the second blow this week for the organisers of next year's Giro, which is due to be revealed in Milan on Saturday. Spain's other big team. ONCE, which includes world number one Laurent Jalabert of France and Swiss rider Alex Zulle, have also withdrawn. Along with the Tour de France, Banesto said their other main objective in 1996 was the Tnur of Spain, which Jalabert won this year. Ten riders, including American Andy Hampsten, are leaving Banesto, while only three men — including Britain's Jeremiah Hunt, newly-turned professional — are boing recruited, as the squad is cut from

VALENCE, France (AFP) - Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascanno dropped a hint to manager Jack Charlton here on Friday night scoring for French Second division Olympique Marseille in their 2-0 victory over Valence. Cascanno, troubled by injury and suspension this season. scored his 10th goal of the campaign with a header in the 21st minute. The veteran of two World Cup Finals defied manager Jack Charlton's invocation of the five day rule. Charlton, hit by the withdrawals of several key players. enforced the rule for the first time in 91 marches forbidding hish squad members to play for their clubs, before the vital European championship qualifier away in Portugal next Wednesday. Marseille lie eighth in the Second division, nine points off leaders Caen.

#### English clubs turn down TV offer

LONDON (R) - The 72 clubs who comprise the three lower division of league football in England turned down a 118.5 million pounds (\$186.8 million) offer to televise their matches for the next five seasons on Friday. Disappointed Football Association officials withdrew their offer to the fontball league clubs after they failed to meet the deadline for a decision. The clubs' chairman met in London for three hours to discuss the five-year offer by the F.A. - and a rival bid from the Premier League which comprises the top

#### No move vet for Astros

reportedly lost 60 million dollars over the past three years. will remain here for another season despite a \$150 million offer to move the club to Washinton. The city had failed to meet the conditions Astros' owner Drayton McLane set out for keeping the club here, including the sale 25,000 season tickets. But a drive in the past two weeks produced 17,000 and increased corporate support. McLane denied a newspaper report here saving he planned to sue his fellow owners and challenge their right to deny a move under a federal anti-trust exemption. The owner made no promises beyond next season and could follow a relocation pattern established by owners to seek a shift. McLane wants renovations in the Astrodome but the city has been unwilling to fund the changes.

#### Ince is staying at Inter

MILAN (R) - Internazionale coach Roy Hodgson said on Friday that midfielder Paul Ince, widely rumoured to be about to return to England after three troubled months in Italian soccer, was staying at the elub. "We have Paul Ince who is staying with us," he told reporters, in response to questions about failed attempts to sign Swedish international Jonas Thern from Roma. "And having two players in that role would have been a problem." Hodgson, seemingly closing the Ince saga, said that in recent weeks he had "never heard of any difficulty that might have made him (Ince) wish to return to England."

MIAMI (AFP) - Marianne Werdel Witmover, the WTA Tour board members Sunday in New York, where the WTA Tour Championships begin Monday. Seles will miss

## Games launches children's fund

Atlanta

ATLANTA (R) — Organisers of next year's Atlanta Olympics joined the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICE) to launch a multi-million dollar initiative aimed according the plight of 18 miles. easing the plight of 18 million war-afflicred children Atlanta Committee for

the Olympic Games (ACOG) President Billy Payne told a news conference that Olympic Aid Atlanta, the biggest humanitanian project ever launhed by the Olympic movement, was designed to help victims of war in 14 coun-

"The Olympic ideal stands for peace, human dignity and the promotion of human excellence, said ACOG co-chairman Andrew Ynung, an exmayor of Atlanta and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

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"We are calling on the world community to work with us to promote peace and protect children from the scourge of war."

Payne said the internaional fund-raising project was an extension of the spirit of the traditional truce which in antiquity naited all wars during the Olympic Games.
The U.N. Genera

Assembly, in a resolution sponsored by 151 nations. ast week called for a similar truce to halt all of the world's conflicts during the Atlanta Games, which will run between July 19 und August 4 next year.

Gwendolyn Calvert Bakcommittee for UNICEF said the primary aim of Olympic Aid Atlanta was to raise \$7 million to meet the urgent needs of chilclren caught in armed conflict. But she said projects amounting to \$15 million were hegging for funds. Those include \$4.2 mil-

lion for programmes in Mozambique, where a 16-year-long civil war has left millions in need, \$1.12 milion fnr Rwanda, which still hears the scars of a gene-cidal war in 1994, and \$1.19 million for children suffering from the war in former ľugoslavia.

Baker said the cash would he raised by special programmes, individual contributions, partnerships with Olympic sponsors and other fund-raising efforts.

Spearheading the initiative on Thursday on behalf of athletes were two legendary speed skaters American Bonnie Blair, who won six Olympic golds over three Winter Games. and Norway's Johann Koss. world record setting triple gold medallist at last ve.ar's games at Lillehammer.

#### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. I · As South, vulnerable, you 4Q76 VAK 1087 062 4752 The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH
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Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: 4A 8 VE 1054 01662 4R J 83

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NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
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Q. 4 · As South, vulnerable, yes 4Q 165 C768 0852 AA 854 The hidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST What action do you take?

Q. 5 · As South, vulnerable, you AQ8 0310042 OAJS +AJS

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17 Page 24 24 What do you bid now?

Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, 700 494 VAJ83 OJ76 AKJ95

The bidding has proceeded:
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#### JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT

FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JS/01/95 FOR 400KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for linancing the 400kv electrical interconnection project with the Syrian Network. Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this

loan for linancing of the Tender No. JS/01/9S for the supply and installation of the following 400kv Overhead Transmission Lines: 1- The 400kv singla circuit overheed transmission line of

a total length of about 60km from the Syrian border to the location of Amman North Substation. 2- The 400kv Double circuit overhead transmission line

ot a total length of about 40km from the location of Amman North S/SN to the location of Amman South The Tender includes the following options:

1- Supply of Stael Towers: Design, manufacture, lesting and delivery of the steel towers for the two mentioned lines. The design and manutacturing drawings of the double circuit towers will be provided to the successful

Conductors and Earthwires: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the phase conductors and the

3- Optical Fibre Ground Wires (OPGW): Design manulacture, testing and delivery of the optical fibre ground wires.

4- Insulators and Fittings: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of insulator strings and tittings for the phase conductors and stranded sleel earthwires. 5- Erection: Raceiving of all necessary material for the

400kv transmission lines, transport and arection of the complete lines including the towers, insulator strings. conductors, earthwires, OPGW and fittings. 6- Turnkey: Design, manufacture, testing, delivery,

insurance and erection of all needed 400kv transmission lines materials. Tenderers who are interested to participate in any of the tender can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Department in Jordan Electricity Authority

main offices located between the 6th and the 7th circles- Jabal Amman starting from Saturday 11/11/95 onwards against a nonrefundable amount of USD 1000 or equivalent in Jordan Dinars in favour of Jordan Electricity Authority for each set of tender documents and submission of a purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the Bidder's name, his local agent and addrass, telex, fax and telephone number.

Bids are to be submitted to the Secretery of Tendering Committee at the above address not later than 12:00 noon Amman time on Saturday 10/2/96 accompanied with a bid bond in the amount given in the tender documents.

#### Injured Young weighs risks of quick return Young missed practice Friday and cut short a workout Thursday to avoid further

damage. His status will be in doubt until the game but he plans to play with pain. It's what stars do in the National

When you can throw it

where you go play even though you're not 100 per cent." Young said. "When you throw the football, things

have to be in good shape.
When it's just a knee or something, you can tape it up and keep going."

Such an attitude pushed

ex-Chicago linebacker Dick

Butkus to sue former team

doctor Theodore Fox in 1974,

one year after he retired with

Butkus proved Fox put

team's needs ahead of his

patient's recovery and won

Now second opinions are

Michael Dillingham, the

49ers' team doctor, warned

Young's agent. Leigh Stein-

berg, that the passer would

ving his doctor correct, but

said he is the ultimate author-

ity on the risks he is willing to

there expect myself knowing

how much I can play with and

the doctor being the profes-

sional knowing the risks and

saying whether I should or shouldn't play," Young said. "I expect the doctor and I

will make this decision

together. I'll understand the

Team doctors are hardly

impartial observers. Former

Oakland Raider team inter-

nist Robert Huizenga said

loyalty to the team "invan-

ably has a subtle effect on a

doctor's decision-making

Owner Al Davis and doc-

tor Robert Rosenfeld pushed

to keep injured Raiders'

players on the field. Curt

Marsh, an ex-Raider blocker, had a mis-diagnosed right ankle injury for five years.

He was forced to have his

right leg amputated just be-

Now clubs worry more ab-

out money than physician

care. Jacksonville's new team

put its medical post up to the

highest bidder and reportedly

made more than one million

dollars by requiring the win-

ner to buy luxury box seats

and advertisements plus don-

Six weeks ago. New Eng-

land quarterback Drew Bled-

soe suffered severe right

shoulder separation in the

first half of a game but kept

playing to the end. He was

out the following week be-

cause of the pain.
"To take a 23-yeare-old

quarterback who has been

defined as the tranchise and

put him in a helpless cir-

cumstance docsn't make

much sense," said Steinberg.

Steinberg has similar fears

for Young, but the passer figures he will know when it

also Bledsoc's agent.

is time to lcave.

atc supplies to the club.

low the knec last year.

process.

risks and make the decision."

"There are no checks out

Young said he is not pro-

try to return too soon.

take with his body.

standard items in the con-

tracts of many top players.

\$600,000.

rmanentiy damaged knees.

Football League.

DALLAS (AFP) — San Francisco quarterback Sleve Young knows his injured throwing shoulder has not healed, but he plans to risk his health here Sunday because of the importance of a victory over arcb-rival Dallas.

"This is the ball game I want to play in, but I would be pushing anyway. That's the nature of football players." Young said.

49crs bave struggled on off-ence and fallen to 5-4. Young has been unhappy because all he can do is watch.

Southpaw Young's left shoulder was bruised last month in a game against Indi-anapolis. Since then, the

"I've had trouble faking my recovery, not faking it, but pushing it," Young said. "It has been very frustrating

to stand on the sidelines. I have to settle into the reality and be more cautious."

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JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY **ADVERTISEMENT** 

FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JSO2/95 FOR 400KV SWITCHGEAR, REACTORS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR AMMAN NORTH SUBSTATION ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT

BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing the 400kv alectricat interconnection project with the Syrian Network.

Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this loan for tinancing of the Tender No. JS02/9S which includes design, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing, commissioning and quarantee of 400kv conventional outdoor switchgear as Option 1 or 400kv SF6 metalclad switchgear as Option 2 and control, protection and ancillary equipment complete with civil works for Amman North 400kv Substation.

Tenderers who are interested to participate in this tender can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Department in Jordan Electricity Authority main offices located between the 6th and the 7th circles- Jabal Amman starting from Saturday 11/11/1995 onwards against a nonrelundable amount of USD 1000 or equivalent in Jordan Dinars in favour of Jordan Electricity Authority for each sel of tender documents and submission of a purchase order accompanied by a

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In case the tenderer requires the tendar documents to be sent to him by mail, the axpress airmail cost will ba Bids are to be submitted to the Secretary of Tendaring

Committee at the above address not later than 12:00 noon Amman time on Salurday 10/2/1996 accompanied with a tender bond in the amount given in the tandar

# MADRID (AFP) — Top cyclist Miguel Indurain will miss next year's Tour of Italy so that he can concentrate on winning a record sixth Tour de France, his Banesto team

#### Cascarino in form for match

20 clubs in the country.

HOUSTON (AFP) - Baseball's Houston Astros, who

#### Aussie boycott plan questioned

Tour Players Association president, said women's players are "nowhere near" ready to boycott the Australian Open next January. World co-number ones Monica Seles and Steffi Graf are among the players who have signed a protest letter over the Grand Slam event's plan to pay men more prize money than women next year. Money has been equal for the past decade. "If Monica says she won't go and makes a stand, that will be enough. Monica is the onc everyone wants to see right now," former tour star Billie Jean Kiong said. Witmeyer cautions the WTA is not yet ready to pull out of the Australian Open without talks. Tennis Australia's Geoff Pollard will speak with WTA the event with a knee injury.

Olympic move designed to he

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es. mathematics, patthematics sponsors in craising efforting the innerstay on behavere two legenders were two legenders skaters. Ronnie 8 miles Bonnie State X Olympic galo Wintet Gama 's Johann Ki d seiting inf ist at last year illehammer. N BRIDGE

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Olympic od. peace, huc. the promise excellen_{ic.} o-chaiin 🤌 Young, an .. Atlanta and 🗒 nbassador _{kolja} calling on a

war in 14 cour

Dortmund's title tivals Bayern Munich struggled in a BH stalemate with Hansa The results left the top two places in the Bundesliga unchanged, with Dortmund still ahead of Bayern on goal dif-

ference. Third-placed Burussia Moenchengladbach miw have a golden opportunity to join them if they can beat hiwly

BONN (R) — In-form Ham-

burg staged a thrilling

second-half fighthack to draw

2-2 with Bundesliga cham-

pinns Borussia Dommund on

Fortuna Duesseldorf.

Dortnund seemed ready to put their midweek German Cup defeat by Karlstuhe hehind them with first-half goals from Michael Zore and Andreas Moeller.

But Hamhutg, revitalised hy their new club president and former German Wurld Cup star Uwe Seeler, struck hack with two goals with seven minutes to share the

Hambutg's goals came from Andreas Fischer and Harald Spoerl, delighting most of the 51.000t-strong crowd and giving new trainer

Hamburg draw with Dortmund Fehr Magath 13 points from

his last live games. The fightback pushed Hamburg up to lifth in the table — a dramatic improvement for a side which was languishing at the wrong end of the Bundesliga before Seeler and Magath took

In contrast to the thrills in Hamhurg, Bayern and Rostock fought out a dull draw. which flattered the Munich

Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn made a string of fine saves to keep the 13 times Bumlesliga champions on level terms.

# Hakkinen conscious but doctors cautious Hill wins pole for final Adelaide Grand Prix

ADELAIDE (R) — Finnish hoss Ron Dennis said doctors driver Mika Hakkinen regained consciousness on Saturday after crashing heavily in the first qualifying round of the Australian Grand Prix, but medical utilicials warned of a possible

Hakkinen, 27, who lost control of his McLaren on Friday an estimated 200 kph at the high-speed Multhouse hend, was no sitting up and speaking clearly, medical officials said.

The atmosphere in the paddock on Saturday's second day of practice was nne of relief as news of the Finit's improvement come through, Briton Danion Hill took pole position without improving on Friday's time aml will head the grid for Sunday's race alongside Williants ream mate David Coul-

However, McLaren teom

and neurologists treating Hakkinen had warned of a possible telapse into unconseniusness and said there was still an outside chance of hearn swelling from the intpact of the crash.

Hakkinen was fisted in critical condition at Royal Adelante Thispital, but Dennis said medical experts preferred to express the condition as severe concussion rather than hrain damage.

The driver had been removed from intensive care earlier on Saturday and was heing monitored closely. He was expected to remain in Adelaide for up to two

weeks. Dennis said. "Mika's recovery has been quite remarkable in the last eight hours. He is now off of the respirator. He is able to talk. He is lucid, asks questions about the corner on which the accident took

place, has drunk water sitting up." Dennis said. "I must stresss, as positive

as this sounds, the specialists are saying there is still a fear of uncertainty, and still some possibility of some sort of relapse, but their prognosis is positive," he added.

He said a piece of dehris unthe track sliced a four-inch long gash in Hakkinen's left rear tyre about two inches deep, causing the car to slip hackwards, hit a curh and pirouette through nearly 360 degrees before slamming into

At impact, Hakkinen's head lashed against the car's steering column. He lost consciousness quickly after the accident as blood filled his lungs, only waking up harefly while heing hathed under heavy sedation in hospital overnight, Dennis said.

There was no reason Hak-

kinen, considered among Sunday's top tacets at the Australian Grand Ptix after finishing second last month at Suzuka, Japan, could mit again tace at some point, according to the neurologists.

Dennis said. "The first thing that we all want is that he recovers and is able to lead a normal life. that is the litst step. Any thought of driving and racing again is certainly not fore-most in our minds," he said.

When told this morning while under ventilation he was not expected to race on Sunday, Hakkinen managed a lopsided smile." Dennis said. His conditions had improved steadily from there.

He credited the swift response of the Grand Prix medical staff, who performed a tracheotomy on the young driver at the scene of the accident, with saving Hak- 1992,

kinen's life. Hill's pole position was his first since the Hungarian Grand Prix in August and the 11th of his career.

He will start Sunday's 81lap race hoping for his first win since Budapest and for an end to champion Michael Schumacher's attempts at a record 10th win in a single

Schumacher will start on the second titw iii the gild after recording the third fastest time. He was the only driver in the top four to improve his time on Satur-

The German, who won the Drivers title by winning the Pacific Grand Prix in Japan three weeks ago, has nine wins. This puts him equal with Briton Nigel Mansell who achieved the feat in

## New tyres installed to satisfy F1 drivers

ADELAIDE (R) - New tyre barriers were installed around the Adelaide Grand Prix circuit on Saturday after drivers requested improved safety following Finn Mika-Hakkinen's crash in Friday's

asked for more tyres at three

different points around the

opening qualifying session. World champion Michael Schumacher, Austrian veteran Gerhard Berger and Briton Damon Hill touted the circuit on Friday evening atter Hakkinen crashed and

Ross Brawn, technical director from the Benetton racing town, told Reuters: "I understand their demands have been met and that the drivers are generally satis-

Practice sessions at the Adelaide street circuit proceeded normally on Satur-Tyres at the Malthouse

bend were improved from just one row to three at the point where Hakkinen's

McLaten struck. We asked for these extra tyres because we felt there had to be more," said Schumacher." We told thent we want three layers of tyres - not just one - at that place for tomor-

"What happened concerned us all and we need to ee some big improvements. Everyone was very shocked hy Mika's accident and some-

thing should be done." Damon Hill, who claimed

provisional pole position for the deaths of Austrian Rothe 81-lap race when the session restarted after a 42minute delay, said; "It should be just a case of thent going out and finding enough tyres to do the joh overnight. We will have to see ....

The accident revived memories of the spring of 1994 when after a seties of high-speed accidents at Imola, Monaco, Barcelona and Silverstone, the sport was thrown into chaps following

land Ratzenberger and threetimes world champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil.

Goodyear, the tyre company which has a monopoly n Formula One, said three left-rear tyres they had inspected were cut severely during the session on the humpy streets, which suggested there was dehris. kerbs or manhole covers with the potential to slash through racing rubber on the circuit.

## Suns, Magic, Spurs post wins

LANDOVER, Maryland (R) — The Washington Bullets were about to end three years of futility against the Knicks when Dere Harper buried a three-pointer with just 2.2 seconds left

head shot duel against FC Kaiserslautern's photol

Pavel Kuka during their German League

to give New York 110-109 victory on Friday.

The Bullets led by as many as 13 points, 70-57, early in the third quarter and had a chance to put the game away in the Inslead, Juwan Howard missed four free throws and Calbert

Cheaney missed one-of-two free throws down the stretch as the Knicks beat Washington for the 14th consecutive time, a streak that goes back to November 13, 1992. Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 25 points and Harper

finished with 22. At Indiana, the Sactamento Kings comented their best star

in franchise history with a 119-95 victory over the Pacers that raised their reord to 5-0. The win surpassed the previous elub mark of 4-0 to open a season, set in 1952 and tied in 1960 when they were the

Cincinnati Royals. The game featured a vicious bench elearing brawl, set off when Michael "the animal" Smith went after Dale Davis after Davis committed an unnecessarily hard foul on Bobby Hurley. In Boston. Dennis Scott scored 30 points to lead the Orlando Magic to a 110-94 victory over the Celtics.

The win was the third in a row for the Magic, who improved to 4-1 without injured superstar centre Shaquille O'Neal. Scott, who was eoming off a 32-point game in a triple overtime win over New Jersey Wednesday, scored 17 points in the third quarter when Orlando opened a 10-point lead.

Rick Fox led Boston with 19 points.

In Philadelphia, Shawn Bradley had 23 points and 22 rebounds and rookie Jerry Stackhouse continued his impress-

24.3 points per game. Larry Johnson led the Hornets with 32 points and 13

rebounds, but the Sixers took control of the game with a 17-5 run in the first quarter.
In Toronto, Wesley Person scored 15 of his 23 points in the first half when Phoenix built a 14-point lead and the Suns held

on for a 112-108 win over the expansion Raptors.

Charles Barkley had 21 points and rookie Michael Finley added 18, including 16 in the first half, for the Suns. second quarter to lead the Pistons to a 100-80 drubbing of the

ive start with 21 points as the 76ers scored a 104-90 victory over the C' Hornets. Stackhouse, me third overall pick in the draft, is averaging

At Detroit, Grant Hill scored 12 of his 28 points in the Cleveland Cavaliers, who fell to 0-5 on the season. The Pistons ripped Cleveland in the second quarter, outscoring them 19-2 during the final 6:33 of the half.

In Miami, Kevin Willis paced a balanced attack with 18 points and Alonzo Mourning added 17 as the Heat remained unbeaten in three games during the Pat Riley era with a 106-80 blowout of the New Jersey Nets.

In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scoted 22 points and Avery Johnson added 17 as the spurs pounded the Milwaukee Buck 104-90 for their third consecutive win. Vin Baker had 23 points and Glenn Robinson added 20 to

pace the Bucks, who have lost four straight games by double digits after a season-opening win.

The Spurs broke open the game by closing the third quarter with a 12-4 run for an 80-69 lead. At Minnesota, Rod Strickland scoted 24 points while Harvey Grant and Arvydas Sabonis added 18 apiece as the

Portland Trail Blazers continued their dominance of the Timberwolves with a 108-102 triumph. The Blazers have beaten the T-Wolves 11 consecutive times They are 13-0 in Minnesota and lead the all-time series,

Tom Gugliotta had 33 points and 16 rebounds for Minnesota, which has not won consecutive games since last March 19.
At Utah, Karl Malone scored 19 points and John Stockton added 17 to lead the Jazz to a 109-86 rout of the winless

Denver Nuggets. The win was the third in a row for the Jazz, who improved to 4-1. The Nuggets fell to 0-5 to join Cleveland as the only remaining winless teams in the NBA.

In Los Angeles, Cedric Ceballos scored 32 points, including

pair of layups in the final minute, to lift the Lakers to a

100-97 victory over the Seattle Supersonics.

Ceballos added 12 rebounds and Sedale Threatt had 14 points off the bench for the Lakers, who broke the 100-point barrier for the first time this season and snapped Seattle's three-game winning streak.

In Vancouver, Malik Sealy scored 29 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 98-91 victory over the expansion Grizzlies.

#### **NBA** results

Phoenix	112	Toronto	108
Detroit	100	Cleveland	
Sacramento	t 19	lodiana	95
Miami	106	New Jersey	80
	104	Charlotte	90
Philadelphia	110	Washington	109
New York	110	Boston	94
Orlando			102
Portland	108	Minnesota	90
San Antonio	104	Milwaukee	
Utah	109	Denver	86
LA Lakers	100	Seattle	97
LA Clippers	98	Vancouver	91

## Edberg, Courier bundled out of Stockholm Open

TEL: 634144

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — 6-7 (4-7) to Czech-born Ger-Thomas Enqvist conquered man David Prinosil. Thomas Enqvist conquered Stefan Edberg in a battle between the Swedish tennis generations, while top seed im Courier was also sent packing at the Stockholm

Open on Friday. Second seed Enqvist beat six-time Grand Slam champion Edberg 6-3, 7-5 to reach the semi-finals, while Courier surprisingly went down 3-6.

Enqvist, 21, the brightest new tennis hope from Sweden, had his troubles in finally closing down the quarter-final contest as the 29-year-old Edberg saved two match points in the ninth game of the final set.

Edberg sprawled flat out and rolled over on the court as he slipped while reaching

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

for a forehand, a mistake which gave world number eight Enqvist his two-match winning points.

But an attack of nerves set in, with Engvist returning long on his first opportunity and then failing to reach a service winner from the former world number one, as Edberg reached 4-5.

The younger man got a

CINEMA

tunner case of the jitters in the next game, doublefaulting for a break point and hilting a forehand out as Edberg elambered back to

But Edberg later hit a weak forehand teturn to give Enqvisi his third match point. This time, the second seed benefitted from a net cord bounce which sealed the

TEL: 699238

Sherman Douglas of the Boston Celtics #20 passes the ball as an opponent tries to stop him IAFP photo)

TEL: 677420 AMMOUN THEATRE CONCORD TEL: 618274 - 618275

> MUSA HIJAZIN Sumaa* in

Hi Citizen

daily at 8:30 p.m. Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh

of the actors abroad the theatre is closed until further notice

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre

TEL: 625155

PHILADELPHIA Delan Walsh & Lora Leeni....in CONGO

CINEMA

Denzel Washington Jene Hackman .... In

CRIMSON TIDE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

ASSASSINS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORO "2" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness

Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15

CONCORD "1"

Sylvester Stallone..in

In view of the travel

# Iraqi regime on its way out - defector

By Saad Silawi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Former Iraqi Industry Minister Hussein Kamel, who defected to Jordan Aug. 8, urged the Iraqi leadership to give up power and warned that political change in Iraq was imminent.

In an interview with the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC). General Kamel, who defected to Jordan with his brother and their wives, two of President Saddam Hussein's three daughters, said the Baghdad regime had no ehoice but to abdicate to avoid a civil war and to thwart a bloodbath in

Iraq. He said Iraqis were fed up with wars, suffering, poverty and oppression and were eager to get rid of the current

Gen. Kamel admitted that Iraq's invasion and occupa-tion of Kuwait in 1990 was a mistake, and claimed that the Baghdad regime planned two

recognition of Kuwait was to no avail since the U.N.imposed sanctions were not lifted. He added, the Iraqi leadership had decided that it would attack Kuwait if sanctions were not lifted by Aug.

Gen. Kamel, who now lives in one of Amman's suburbs, said no Iraqi official dared to object to any decision taken by Saddam Hus-

The general also said Iraq was in the last stages of pro-ducing a nuclear bomb before the invasion of Kuwait, but that the ensuing war ruined

He said a "national salvation council" — which he declared he was establishing earlier this month to unite opponents of his father-in-- was open to all Iraqi opposition groups with the exception of those advocating the division of the country.

"Our doors are open to our brethren in the opposition wherever they are. We will always hear them and interact with them," he said. But we will fight any (opposition) party working the division of Iraq or spying for foreign parties. These two kinds of opposi-tion we will avoid," he

Gen, Kamel said that he

after the announcement of his intections to set up the opposition council and added that the council's political platform would be made pubс ѕоол. Gen. Kamel said his work

within the regime before his defection was aimed at serving his country rather than serving those in power. He criticised some opposi-

tion groups which he said were not serious in their work, asserting that these groups have become reliant on foreign parties.

Gen. Kamel denied that

bis defection was a ploy con-cocted by him and the Iraqi president and said those propagating such ideas aimed to absorb the shock resulting from his defection which he said caused a great deal of barm to the regime. He also refuted claims that

there were intentions by him or those who defected with him to return to Baghdad and said it was illogical to leave the country and then start negotiating with the regime on returning for new gains.
"No one who left Iraq with

me intends to return. We all left after reaching a full agreement," he said in reference to news reports saying

(Continued on page 7)

#### **Prosecutor** may appeal **UAE** verdict

on Filipina

ABU DHABI (R) — A United Arah Emirates (UAE) public prosecutor said on Saturday he might take to the supreme court the case of Filipina maid Surah Balubagan who is facing IOI lashes and a year in a jail for killing her employer.

"We are currently studying the appeal court ruling. If we find that the punishment does not conform with the crime according to Islamic law then we will appeal to the Ahu Dhahi Federal Supreme Court," Ahmad Al Mulla told Reuters.

"If we find the sentence was too light according to Sharia law then we will seek a

Mr. Mulla said he could also seek a lighter sentence if it was determined that the ruling was too harsh given the

"The prosecutor is supposed to act strictly according to the law. This means the defendant could benefit. And

maybe we will agree with the ruling." he said.

A UAE Islamic appeal court in the oasis town of Al 'Ain last month sentenced Ms. Balahagan to Itki lashes

and a year in prison to be followed by deportation. The verdict refuelled outrage that crupted after a retrial court in September cnndemned the young maid to death for stabling 70-year-

old Almas Minhammad Al Baloushi 34 times last year. It rejected Ms. Balabacan's claim that she acted in self-defence during a rape after an earlier court concluded she had been raped and sent-

orisonment. Ms. Balahagan and her parents had expressed hope that UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan would spare her from the canings and impris-

enced her to seven years im-

nument by eranting a pardon. The UAE leader saved Ms. Balabagan from a firing squad hy persuading the victim's family to show mercy and drop their demand for her execution in exchange for \$41.000 in blood money.

But a UAE official last week all hut ruled out the possibility of a pardon. A prison official on Satur-

day told Reuters that she had informed Ms. Balahagan that she would be serving the year in prison and the lushing would be carried out just before her release. "We were inld that there

would be no pardon and that the sentence would be carried out. Sarah has been informed." the official said. UAE officials were not available (or comment on the report.

Ms. Balahagan's parents have decided not to appeal the verdict, saving they feared dragging out the case and risking a tougher sent-

Mr. Mulla said he did not think there would be a pardon because "one year linprison) is a light sentence."



## King honours officials and individuals behind success of MENA conference

women's awareness of their legal rights

duty to review their current cause no legal rights exist are

ate new operational system to cause they are unable to beachieve tremendous effects nefit from it," she said.

rights.

Rasma said

AMMAN (Petra) - His the success of the summit was Majesty King Hussein on Saturday hosted a luneh at Al Hussein Youth City to honour representatives of official and private institutions which took part in preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman Oct. 29-

King Hussein thanked all those who contributed to the success of the summit and said he was delighted by their work and the summit's achievements

He recalled paying an inspection visil to the conference site before it was opened and being reassured on preparations, saying that

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Her Royal

Highness Princess Basma

said Satorday that non-

(NGOs) must play a vital role

to raise the awareness of

Arab women about their leg-

Princess Basma, addres-

sing a group of 100 women

representing legal advice cen-

tres in 11 Arab countries.

said that since the role of the

NGOs was increasing worl-

dwide and in all aspects, they

need to review their planning

and operational systems to

"NGOs became a main

part of overall social develop-

ment operations and of

women's development in par-

liament, and it is the NGOs'

BONN (Agencies) - Euro-

pean Union (EU) Commis-

sioner Hans van den Broek of

the Netherlands has the best

chance to fill the North

Atlantic Treaty Organisa-

tion's (NATO) top job after hsi compatriot Ruud Lubbers

dropped out of the race, Ger-

many's Bild am Sonntag

weekly reported on Saturday.

released ahead of publication

on Sunday, the paper quoted

U.S. diplomats as saying they liked Mr. Van den Broek. 59.

the EC commissioner for

foreign and security policy.

absolutely nothing against a

candidate from the Nether-

"The U.S. government has

In a report from Brussels

Van der Broek new

favourite for NATO

influence their societies.

al rights.

ament organisations

a happy surprise for him and "I was hoping that every-

thing will go well; the good preparations for hosting the summit and dealing with this great parley were a good surprise and a source of pride for me and all members of our large, united Jordanian the King said at the family.'

His Majesty commended the cooperation and coordination among representatives of the private and public sectors, which, he said. helped offer a realistic image of Jordan and the perseverance and determination of

typical procedures and to cre-

on the society," Princess Bas-

ma, told the opening session

entitled "Legal Advice Prog-

rammes for Women.

of a three-day Arab seminar

This change, Princess Bas-

ma said, is the way to achieve

the necessary change in the

social norms and the society's

perception of women and

Moreover, Princess Basma

said, Arab women suffer

from ignorance or lack of

knowledge regarding their

legal rights, "although there

has been success and altera-

"Most Arab women were

tions in some legal issues."

unable to secure their legal

rights or benefit from it either

because of ignorance or be-

Lubbers from the begin-

ning." it quoted one diplomat

It said the U.S. diplomats

praised Mr. Van den Broek.

a former Dutch foreign

minister, for strengthening

ties with Washington and making the Netherlands an

In an unusually public row

with its European allies.

Washington torpedoed a bid

by Mr. Lubbers, the former

Dutch premier, for the

alliance's senior post. The

Netherlands withdrew his

NATO member states

have sought to limit the dam-

candidacy on Friday.

especially reliable ally,

as saving

"You have achieved all our aspirations as we are entering a new stage which requires caution and preparation by all in the same spirit, resolve and determination to move our country. God willing, to the aspired future," he

The King said the summit was an extraordinary event and achieved great success not only for Jordan but also for other Arab countries.

King Hussein presented several of those who helped in preparing for the summit with medals and Royal gifts in appreciation of their Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Faisal Ben Al

It was also attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem. Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's advisors, HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's cultural secretary, the deputy prime ministers, the Crown Prince's private advisor. several ministers, the mayor of Amman, the chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the directors of the General Intelligence and the Public Security departments and

The lunch was attended by Their Royal Highnesses other senior officials,

there to support them or be-

Unfamiliarily with legal

matters, the Princess added.

is a common problem and is

not limited to one society,

but is found in all societies worldwide, "even in the adv-

anced societies where women

achieved a lot of successes

and secured almost all their

tant, especially that the size

of this problem in our region

is larger than other countries

and there is a need for

national planning and programming to face it," Princess

This issue is very impor-

Seminar highlights need to raise Arab

factors played a role in legal

ignorance among women in

the Arab World, and we need

lo work on eliminating this

ignorance not only among

women, but among other in-

dividuals in the society." Ms.

During the first day's acti-

vities, participants from 11

countries including Morocco,

Tunisia, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemon, Bahrain,

Khader said.

## 'Global warming awareness among women. "Political and historical

LONDON. (R) - Global warming could increase the amount of fresh water entering the North Atlantic cooling Western Europe by several degrees Celsius, a German oceanographer said. "It would be a major reshaping of the way in which the climate system

Algeria, Egypt and Jordan, exchanged views and experi-The gathering, held at Al Dhawahi Hotel in the Al

Rashid suburb, aims at preparing better strategies for legal advice centres to aid women in legal and psychological advice based on each centre's own experience. Would-be Filipino hijacker

#### Asma Khader, president of the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), which organised the event, also stressed the importance of spreading legal

held in Kuwait, report says

KUWAIT (AP) - Airport security officers have foiled an attempt to hijack a Kuwait jetliner and arrested a Filipino allegedly recruited for the job by the Iraqi intelligence. pro-government daily reported Saturday.

The Filipino was arrested Thursday after he arrived from Cyprus to catch a Kuwait Airways flight to Bangkok and Manila, the newspaper Al Anha said.

Security officials found in his possession a machinegun, small arms, ammunition, four passports and cata-Ingues of civilians aircraft and weapons, Al Anbu said.

Government officials could not he reached for comment, and the paper did not disclose

Al Anba said the Filipino told intermigators that he had heen recruited by Iraqi intelligence agents in Cyprus. During seven months of training on the island, he was being paid \$3,000 a month.

The suspect, according to Al Anha, had been instructed to seize the aircraft and demand ransom and the release of prisoners jailed in Kuwait for collaborating with Iraqi forces, who overran Kuwait in August. 1990.

Hundreds of Iragis and other Arabs were convicted of collaboration and given long prison terms after the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991.

Rare Philippine eagle chick dies after hatching

Philippines

Rahmstorf said.

DAVAO.

(AFP) — The first Philippine eagle bred by & pair in caprivity, died shortly after halching, setting back efforts to save this rare bird, it was announced Saturday. The eagle chick-named "Mindanaw," died from respiratory problems. Friday after having difficulty emerging from its shell, officials of the Philippine Eagle Foundation Inc. said. The eagle was born through the fourdation's captive breeding programme, aimed at saving the Philippine eagle from extinction.

#### lands, but rather was against age of the dispute. Sudan rebels claim advance on Juba

CAIRO (Agencies) Sudanese rebels are closing on Juba, the capital of southern Sudan, in their latest offensive, rebel leader John Garang said in an interview published on Saturday, as Sudan accused Uganda and Eritrea of supporting the re-

bel movement. "SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) forces are close to Juba and we are continuing our offensive towards Juba." Colonel Garang told the Arabic daily Al Havat.

He said the offensive by the southern rebels, which began Oct. 25, had "taken control of 11 towns."

There was no independent confirmation of the claims.

and in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, a govern-ment daily reported that government troops had repulsed the SPLA attacks around Juba at Parajok, Magwi and Ashwa

The Al Engaz Al Watani daily also claimed that Ugandan and Eritrean forces had participated in attacks with the SPLA but said government forces had "destrayed 70 per cent of the Ugandan forces, paralysed their movement and driven them out of the battle completely.'

The daily said it held prisoners of war (PoWs) (rom the Ugandan fourth division and tank crew from Eritrea.

"The PoWs revealed that an ambassador of a Western nation in a neighbouring country supervised the planning and execution of the Ugandan offensive on border areas in south Sudan," the paper said.

The prisoners said that the Ugandan offensive was aimed at securing a buffer zone in southern Sudan, the paper added. Col. Garang, however, de-

nied accusations by Khartoum that Ugandan and Tanzanian troops "fight alningside SPLA, forces" or that "our forces are backed by Ethiopia or Eritrea."

Khartoum has threatened to send troops into Uganda in revenge for the claimed support of the Sudancse rebels, although Kampala denies in-

tervening and has made light of the Sudanese threats. SPLA commander Chol Lual told reporters at the Sudanese border town of Ten-Ten on Wednesday that the rebel forces were just 36 kilometres from Juba.

Col. Garang also said the SPLA had cornered and ousted government forces from 10 towns and villages in Eastern Equatoria.

"(Government) talk aims to cover up its lies to the people which it has told the war is over. The SPLA has, however, begun a large offensive and the government, unable to explain to the people, says Ugandan and Tanzanian troops are fighting with us.

3 World War I veterans die after news of decorations

PARIS (AFP) — Three French veterans of World War I died from emotional shock when they were told they had been named to the Legion of Honour, France's highest military decoration the Veterans' Ministry said here Friday. The three for mer soldiers were among 1,355 veterans of the great war, which erupted in 1914 and ended Nov. 11, 1918, to be so honoured. The decorations were to be awarded at ceremonies Saturday marking the armistice. The dean of France's World War I veterans is 110-yearold Bernard Delholm.

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agency dispatche

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#### Music drowned out by Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) - War. rages in the north of Sn Lanka but the band won't play on. The Sri Lanka Philharmonic Players' Society has downed instruments and cancelled the rest of the season, a newspaper said Saturday. The government has urged middle class Sri Lankans to cut down on parties, banquets and general having fun while soldiers die battling Tamil separatists in the north. The orcbestra called it quits "due 10 the prevailing situation in the conotry. with a view of showing solidarity with the efforts of our armed forces", the Island newspaper said. The season's four remaining concerts would be resched-uled, it added.

#### could cool W.Europe'

works," Stefan Rahmstorf said in an article published in the journal New Scientist. A climatic change could be caused since a warm atmosphere can hold more moisture and result in increased rain. Mr. Rahmstorf, from the University of Kiel, said, The Atlantic conveyor belt. an oceanic feature which helps warm Western Europe, could grind to a halt if the amount of fresh-

rapidly before travelling

south in the ocean's depths.

Part of the warm surface

water in the gulf stream is

therefore pulled north-

wards where it emits heat

and sinks. "It does not mat-

ter whether the extra frest-

water is added at low or

high latitudes — all it has

to do is dilute the ocean

water so that cooling in the

north is no longer enough to make it sink," Mr.

in eased on Tuesd french rally for | | Arab peac water entering the North Atlantie each second rose ARG (R) - Several in by an estimated 60,000 people demonstrated french capital on Sunc cubic metres. Under the conveyor belt, cold, dense water in the North sinks

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supports ench A-tests DON (AFP) - Br

Minister John M Tobustly defen over . onally-deplored in the South Pacific. New Zealand, when ending a Comm

bug and grader Commonwater Commonwealth in September.

other invasions of Kuwait in 1994 and 1995. He said plans to invade Kuwait and eastern Saudi Arabia in October 1994 were drawn after studying the tac-tical mistakes of the 1990 invasion, but the plans were He said that Iraq's belated **NEWS IN BRIEF Princess Sarvath meets JICA official** AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, chairperson of the Young Women's Muslim Association. on Saturday met at the Royal Court with Japanese International Cooperation Agency (IICA) Director Kimo Fujita. Princess Sarvath and the JICA official discussed various projects carried out by the association and means of enhancing acceptance of the property of the second of the property of the second of the property o

tion's board of trustees.

#### enhancing cooperation between the association and JICA. The meeting was attended by Japanese Ambassador in Amman Takayuki Kimura and members of the associa-

Arab League urged to see suffering of Iraqis BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqi on Saturday invited the head of the Arab League to visit the country and see first hand how its people are suffering under U.N. economie sanctions. "Hasn't the time come to head to Iraq and visit a country of 20 million people and ask about their suffering?" the official newspaper Al Jumhouriyah asked in an open letter to the league's secretary general, Esmate Abdul Meguid. The newspaper said it wass the "Arab League's task" to restore Arab solidarity by allowing Iraq back into the Arab fold. Dr. Abdul Meguid on Wednesday asked Iraq to accept for a six-month trial period U.N. Resolution 986, which would allow it to export up to one billion dollars worth of oil per quarter under international supervision to buy food and medicine.

#### Ruling coalition resigns in breakaway Cyprus

ANKARA (AFP) - The ruling coalition in breakaway northern Cyprus resigned on Saturday after being in power since January 1994, the Turkish-Cypriot news agency TAK said. However, Hakki Atun, the head of the Turkish-Cypriot administration, will run daily affairs in the selfproclaimed "Turkish republic of northern Cyprus" until a new administration is formed, the agency said. The move (ollows the refusal by Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash to reshuffle his cabinet after three ministers from the left-wing Turkish Republican Party (CTP) handed in their notice at the end of October. The CTP wass the coalition partner of Mr. Atun's centre-right Democratic Party (DP). They clashed in February over a property law hut renewed their partnership in May.

#### Egypt student cuts off 'impure' penis

CAIRO (R) - An Egyptian college student sliced off his penis because he was convinced it was an impure organ that impeded religious activity, an Egyptian newspaper said on Saturday. The daily Akhhar Al Youm quoted unnamed student's mother as saying her son had lately been praying rigorously and repeating unorthodox ideas about the cleanliness of male sex organs.

#### 10 killed, 11 hurt in Egypt building collapse

CAIRO (R) - Ten people were killed and 11 injured when a building collapsed after a gas cylinder exploded in a cafe in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria on Friday local newspapers reported on Saturday. The government Al Ahram daily said at least 17 other people, including seven from one family, are feared trapped under the ruhhle of the five-storey building in Al Hadra area.

